OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

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Pensioner attacked at home still in hospital

AN OSWESTRY pensioner attacked as he slept at home is still in hospital more than a week after the assault.

Charles Green's family say they are trying to keep the 87-year-old's spirits up as he recovers from his ordeal.

Mr Green, from Ambleside Road, was attacked after waking to find raiders in his house at 2.45am last Monday.

He was left with bleeding on the brain, a double fracture to his left hip socket, a severely swollen and split ear and serious bruising to the back of his neck and his arms. His son Terry Green said his father was still in hospital in Stoke.

He said: "He's still with us and he is talking. I think the hospital is more upbeat than him. He is aware of the reality of what happened. He is being looked after by his family."

He said he was very grateful to all of the staff for the treatment his father was being given. He said: "The situation should never have arisen but as it has they are doing the best for him.

"It is up to us to try and raise his spirits."

Maria Wilkinson, spokeswoman for West Mercia Police, said police were continuing their inquiries. Two men have been released on bail in connection with the incident.

New AM in Cardiff vow

NEW CONSERVATIVE Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire Russell George was this week finding his way around the Cardiff Bay Senedd building after sweeping to victory in last week's election.

In a swing of 9.5 per cent from the Liberal Democrats to Welsh Conservatives, George racked up a 2,300 majority. He ousted the Liberal Democrats in what is usually one of the safest Liberal Dem seats in Wales.

Celebrations went on until daylight in the Welshpool Conservative's headquarters last Friday with the new AM pledging to make Montgomeryshire voices heard in Cardiff.

● Win – See Page 16

Tributes for business stalwart

By Graham Breeze

BERNARD MARTIN, one of Oswestry's best known businessmen and former head of the Martin's Cash & Carry business, has died aged 81.

Mr Martin took over the family grocery shop from his father in Trefonen and developed the business into one of the biggest cash and carry operations in the country.

At its peak, the thriving business employed over 200 people in Oswestry and enjoyed a customer base all across Shropshire, Mid & North Wales.

Mr Martin retired in 1991 and the cash and carry business closed in 2002.

His son Mr Peter Martin said his father had fought a brave battle against prostate cancer.

"He was a wonderfully supportive father and I couldn't possibly have had a better Dad.

"After the business and his family, his two passions were golf and football. He was a keen footballer in his youth with Treflach and Oswestry and also had trials with Sheffield Wednesday.

"He was proud to live in Trefonen and apart from his military service in the Durham Light Infantry, never left the area."

A tribute was also paid by Howard Jones, secretary of Llanymynech Golf Club where Mr Martin had been a past captain, president and long time trustee.

He said: "He loved the club immensely and was a generous benefactor for the junior section."

Mr Martin met his wife Marie when they both played at Llanymynech.

As well as his wife and son, Mr Martin also leaves a daughter Valerie Edwards, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

A funeral service will take place on Wednesday at Trefonen at 1pm, followed by cremation at Emstrey.

Bernard Martin

TOWN WAR ON KILLER DRUG

OSWESTRY THIS week declared war on GHB as the town launched a two-pronged fightback against the killer drug.

A mother and daughter whose family have been hit by the drug helped organise a special event to warn of its dangers, while pub landlords revealed they are stepping up their campaign against it.

by Graham Breeze

The moves came after town MP Owen Paterson called for the drug to be upgraded to class B from class C.

Mr Paterson said he had been told the "extremely addictive" drug had been linked to two deaths in Oswestry – which is believed to have the highest rate of users in the country.

Terri Evans, 25, and Eirwen Day, from Walford and North Shropshire College, worked with Keil Thomas, 25, and Jason Wirdnam, 21, to stage a GHB awareness event at the Shrewsbury Road campus.

Worries

Mrs Evans said both her brothers had been affected by the drug.

"It is not nice to see. What worries me is I have children myself and my eldest is eight years old and I worry she may be offered it at some stage.

"My brothers are off it now and I want to help others."

Mrs Day said she was also studying at the college in a bid to help those affected by drugs.

She said: "My 29-year-old son was most affected by it.

"He got off it because he was tired of the vicious cycle but it is a hell of a thing to get off of."

Meanwhile Oswestry publicans have welcomed plans to keep tester kits behind the bar in a bid to combat use of the illegal drug.

Shropshire Young People's Substance Misuse team spokesman Roy Tirrill told this week's Pubwatch meeting the drug can be hard to detect because it looks like water and has no smell.

He revealed a special GHB steering group in the county was considering getting special tester kits for Oswestry's licensed premises to use.

Police Constable Mark Moth said the kits were "fantastic" but expensive.

Frank Francis, chairman of Oswestry Pubwatch, said: "It is a good idea to put forward.

"It could be a useful thing for doormen in the town to use if they are suspicious that someone may be carrying the illegal liquid."

Mr Tirrill will now take the idea back to the steering group to see if they can move the plans forward.

● Call – See Page 15

Mayor's warning to taxpayers

Cynthia Hawksley with 18-month-old granddaughter Melody Beake. *Picture: Peter Flemmich*

OSWESTRY'S NEW mayor has warned taxpayers they could face a double tax whammy if the town council takes on too many services.

Councillor Cynthia Hawksley says it is important there are clear ground rules in place before town councils take over services being cut by Shropshire Council.

Councillor Hawksley took over as Mayor of Oswestry at a ceremony on Monday and said she was looking forward to working with Shropshire Council. She said town councils across Shropshire were working on a new charter for working with the council.

"Cementing the new charter of joint working and co-operation will be very important but I believe this council must be wary of accepting more services from the unitary council.

"Ultimately, if any local council takes on any additional services then these will have clear cost implications. Undoubtedly this will result in double taxation to our local residents unless the principal council reduces its own council tax demand.

"This is unlikely, so therefore I believe that it is very important that clear ground rules are set."

MP brands pylon plan for area as monstrous

PLANS WHICH could see hundreds of wind turbines and pylons built across Oswestry and the borders have been condemned as "monstrous" by an MP.

Montgomery MP Glyn Davies warned the plans posed a serious threat to the tourism industry and were already causing damage with falling house prices.

He told a debate in Westminster that Mid Wales wind farms were inefficient and a National Grid scheme to link them to power lines in Shropshire could involve 46m high pylons.

A route has not yet been chosen for the 400,000 volt line and National Grid has stressed no decision has been made about whether it would go under or overground.

But Mr Davies told Parliament: "Our entire region – the beautiful land that is Mid Wales – is to be sacrificed at the altar of a false god. The consequences of this proposal would be to totally destroy the place that we love.

"The proposals envisage the granting of permission for the erection of another 600 to 800 new onshore turbines in Mid Wales, a 20 acre electricity substation and about 100 miles of new cable, much of it carried on steel towers 150ft high. It is scarcely believable."

Meanwhile hundreds of protestors will be at a rally today ahead of a planned march on the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff. A "Stop The Pylon" rally is being held at Dolgead Hall, in Llanfair Caereinion at 7.30pm.

● Tactic – See Page 4

Festival will show match

FOOTBALL FANS at Oswestry's star-studded music festival will not miss out on the big Champion's League final thanks to the event's organisers.

Plasma screens will be placed around the site at OsFest, in Park Hall, on May 28, for people to watch Manchester United take on Barcelona.

The festival takes place from May 28 to 30 and has a line-up of top acts including Tinchy Stryder, Example, and Labrinth.

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Councillor's response to store plan critics

OSWESTRY'S OUTGOING mayor has answered critics of the Town Council's involvement in the supermarket and cinema scheme on part of the livestock market.

Councillor Elaine Channon, who stood down as mayor on Monday, said proceeds from the scheme would be used to benefit the whole community.

Earlier this year Shropshire Council granted planning permission for a supermarket and cinema on the land on Shrewsbury Road.

Part of the land will be used for the complex with the other half redeveloped for a new, state-of-the-art livestock market.

Oswestry Town Council owns the land.

Although planning permission has been granted for the supermarket development, there are still negotiations under way about the legal agreements tied up with the scheme.

At recent meetings to discuss those legal, 106 agreements, there have been requests to discover how Oswestry Town Council plans to spend any money they receive from the sale.

Councillor Channon said: "It is disappointing to note that the supermarket saga still continues.

Benefit

"The town council's position is that, following the widest possible consultation then the net capital proceeds arising from the scheme will be used to provide financial contributions for regeneration projects for the wider economic, environmental and social benefit of the community.

"These will be linked to the Shropshire Community Strategy, the local development framework and the Oswestry town plan."

Councillor Channon said that the council had been very clear about its intent and it was a concern to read of any doubt or uncertainty about its commitment.

"The council has also reaffirmed its committed support to the Oswestry Livestock Market."

The Smithfield was one of four applications for a new superstore with the others being refused planning permission. Recently the developer behind a scheme for the JT Hughes car sales and Guttercrest land in Victoria Road announced it was appealing against refusal.

Mayor's call to be firm over scheme

THE NEW Mayor of Oswestry has encouraged her town council colleagues to stand firm on plans for spending money gained from the Livestock Market project.

Councillor Cynthia Hawksley said the recent Shropshire Council strategic planning committee meeting indicated some doubt as to the intended use of the net capital proceeds arising from the scheme by the town council.

"The regeneration project of the Livestock Market continues to suffer from delay," she added.

She said the council's position was that the net capital would be used to help regeneration projects for the "economic, environmental, and social benefit" of the area's community.

"I reaffirm my support and that of the town council to the proposed investment from the project into Oswestry Livestock Market."

She added: "This is a vital asset for Oswestry that has a significant importance to the town, for local employment and our local economy."

Getting in the pink for walk

THE SEVERN Hospice charity shop in Welshpool has register forms for the Severn Hospice 10km sponsored midnight walks for ladies only, taking place in Telford and Shrewsbury. The Telford walk starts at TCAT on Saturday, June 4, and in Shrewsbury at Sundorne Sports Village on Saturday, July 2. Wearing their pink hats are volunteers, left to right, Brenda Eilledge and Elizabeth Silvester.

Warning on bogus charity appeals

BOGUS CHARITY collectors may be operating in the Oswestry area, Shropshire Council's trading standards team has warned.

A warning went out this week asking people to be on the lookout for organisations carrying out door-to-door collections which give the impression that they are connected to air ambulance charities.

Distributed leaflets have come from a number of organisations including Air Ambulance Service (Trading Co) Ltd and Air Ambulance Support Ltd. More recently they have also been received from (E&N Textiles) Ltd.

Anyone receiving such a leaflet is urged to read it very carefully to be sure they are happy to leave their unwanted items for these organisations to collect.

"These identified organisations are not charities, and it is understood that they have no connection with any of the regional air ambulances that people might associate them with, and as such no money raised will be passed to the local air ambulance," said David Edwards, head of trading standards.

Anyone wishing to donate clothing directly to the Midlands Air Ambulance should do so only to an authorised Midlands Air Ambulance collector who will be able to show people a registered charity number and official logo. Alternatively call for details on 0800 840 2040.

Fire may be 'deliberate'

FIREFIGHTERS say that a Saturday night roadside fire was probably started deliberately.

A crew from Welshpool was called at 11.27pm to attend a blaze at the side of the main road in Leighton.

A spokesperson for the Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service said: "It appears that someone has set fire to some rubbish on the side of the road."

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07.57	GOLF 2.0 GT TDi SPORT, (140) TURBO DIESEL, only 26,000 miles.	DUE IN
07.57	CORSA 1.4 16V SXi, only 33,000 miles.	SOLD
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07.57	ASTRA 1.6 16V DESIGN, only 48,000 miles.	£5,995
07.07	FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE, only 27,000 miles.	£4,995
07.07	MERIVA 1.3 CDTi LIFE MPV, TURBO DIESEL, only 22,000 miles.	£6,395
07.07	ZAFIRA 1.6 16V CLUB MPV, 7 seats, only 34,000 miles.	SOLD
06.56	VECTRA 1.9 CDTi EXCLUSIV, (150) TURBO DIESEL, only 48,000 miles.	DUE IN
06.56	PICASSO 1.6 HDi, VTX, TURBO DIESEL, only 54,000 miles	DUE IN
06.56	FIESTA 1.25 STYLE, only 40,000 miles.	SOLD
05.55	AGILA 1.2 DESIGN, only 23,000 miles.	DUE IN
05.05	(NEW) ASTRA 1.4 LIFE, only 67,000 miles.	SOLD
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Revamp scheme for town's market hall now step closer

AMBITIOUS PLANS to revamp Oswestry's market hall have moved a step closer after town officials revealed they have put the project out to tender.

David Preston, Oswestry Town Council clerk, said companies have been invited to make a bid to carry out the facelift plans on the 1960s market hall at the top of Bailey Head.

The Powis Hall building, which houses the three-day-a-week market, won an online voting competition in The Times newspaper, by design company My Deco.

The prize was £50,000 to be given in kind – the estimated cost of the advice from designer Sir Terence Conran and materials.

Costings

Sir Terence offered suggestions on how to upgrade the facility and meetings with traders also helped with proposals for the new designs.

Suggestions included installing a lift, WiFi, improved lighting and heating, refurbished toilets and a new, disabled toilet.

Councillors have been working with an architect and a quantity surveyor on detailed costings.

Mr Preston said now the tender process had begun he hoped to receive a formal report by early June.

He said: "We have just gone out to tender this week with the My Deco proposals, with as much of the scheme as possible incorporated into the plans.

"Requests from the traders have also been incorporated in the plans including new disabled toilets, toilet facilities the installation of a lift and the option of solar panels."

The town council still need an extra £50,000 to help with the work.

Oswestry Town Mayor, Councillor Cynthia Hawksley, said: "We are delighted at last to go out to tender.

"The MyDeco contribution has still to reach the promised £50,000, however we feel with the interest in the market at the present time, no further delays should be made."

Shropshire Councillor Martin Bennett said: "I think, like the majority of the members of the town council, we will be relieved when this long-running programme to upgrade the Powis Market Hall is not only in progress but has been completed."

Students to raise funds in the field

AGRICULTURE students at Walford and North Shropshire College are planning to complete a charity 24-hour ploughing marathon on September 16 and 17.

The first year students have been offered an 80 hectare site which they aim to plough in a single day, guided by tutor Freddie Pullan. They have divided into small working groups with responsibility for organising key aspects of the event, including the crucial equipment, tractors, ploughs and fuel.

The site being used is farmed by Sydney Farms Ltd and as well as the 80 hectares being allocated to the college there are an additional 60 hectares which will be used by local agricultural dealers for an autumn cultivation demonstration area.

The money raised will go towards decorating and upgrading the students' social and rest facilities at the campus and supporting the RD Park Trust, a charity set up in memory of Don Park, the first principal of Walford College, offering financial support for study trips and educational tours.

Flower club to hear talk

OSWESTRY and Border Flower Club's next meeting will be on May 17 at 7.30 pm in Morda and Sweeney Village Hall, with national demonstrator and judge on the BBC's village show, Micheal Bowyer.

His theme will be "April showers bring forth May flowers". This is a club meeting but visitors will be made welcome.

Out on parade

WELSHPOOL Air Cadets will celebrate the group's 50th anniversary by holding a parade through the town on May 22. A church service and reunion will also take place. Call 07788 642413 for more information.

Red Arrows all set for air show magic

TOWN CLERK Robert Robinson has confirmed that the Red Arrows will perform at the Welshpool Air Show this year.

The air show takes place on June 12 at the Montgomeryshire Airport with free entry to pedestrians and transport provided by a special shuttle bus.

For those travelling by car there is parking at £8 per car with gates opening at 7.30am.

Organised by Welshpool Town Council, in conjunction with the airport and the RAF, this year the event includes a display from a Spitfire while static displays include a full size Typhoon.

If you would like to be a part of the show and are interested in having a stall contact (01938) 553142.

Rugby hero's message for pupils

Former British Lions star Scott Quinnell with pupils from Llanfyllin High School

WELSH RUGBY legend Scott Quinnell dropped in to a border school and urged pupils: Don't give up on your education.

The former British Lions star called in at Llanfyllin High School as part of his work helping children with dyslexia.

Quinnell, who was diagnosed as dyslexic when he was 21, told youngsters: "Never give up on school – don't turn your back on education."

Since he retired from the sport, he has devoted much of his time to promoting an initiative that helps people with dyslexia, dyspraxia and ADHD, through an exercise programme called Dore.

Struggles

Quinnell, who played number 8 for Wales, Llanelli RFC, the Llanelli Scarlets and the Lions, scored 11 tries for Wales and captained his country on seven occasions, revealed his own struggles at school.

"I want them to know that they shouldn't give up on school," he said.

"If what I say helps just one person with dyslexia then it's worth it," he said.

Staff in the special needs department at Llanfyllin High School, Bethan Williams and Ceri Jones, had heard about Scott Quinnell's work and contacted him.

"We were looking to improve our provision for pupils with dyslexia and other learning difficulties and contacted Scott who said he would like to come and talk to the pupils here," said Miss Williams, who added that the staff, possibly more than the pupils, were excited by the visit on Tuesday.

NEWS in brief

Top DJ heading for rally in region

TOP RADIO 1 DJ Greg James will be entertaining hundreds of young farmers at a village on the Powys/Shropshire border later this month.

The DJ has agreed to play at this year's Montgomeryshire Young Farmers' Clubs rally dance at Bronymaen, in Meifod, on May 21, which will run from 9pm to 1am.

County organiser Lorraine Stokes said the dance would follow a day of fun-filled events at Bronymaen, which will start at 9.30am.

Admission for the day event costs £5 for adults, £2 for children, under fives go free and YFC members are £3.

Tickets for the evening are £10 for members, £12 for non-members if purchased during the day, £12 for members and £15 for non-members if bought on the door.

Police plea after road accident

WITNESSES are being sought by Oswestry police for a road collision in which a parked car was damaged by a vehicle which failed to stop.

The incident happened in Oswald Place, at the junction of Upper Brook Street, between 6pm and 9pm last Thursday.

The blue Renault Clio was parked on the footpath.

Information can be passed to the town's police station on 0300 333 3000, or the anonymous Crimestoppers number, 0800 555 111.

Parked vehicles are left damaged

TWO VEHICLES were damaged in Howell Drive, Welshpool, on Friday night.

The vehicles, which were parked facing each other, had both been scratched on the doors nearest the pavement.

Anyone who may have witnessed the damage take place is asked to contact Welshpool Police Station on 101 from a landline or 01267 222020 on a mobile.

Tactic talks to be held in power line protest

COUNCILS AND campaigners this week joined the fight against a scheme to build a 400,000 volt power line across Oswestry and the borders.

The National Grid wants to install a 400,000 volt electricity line across the Shropshire border to feed the electricity generated from wind farms being built in mid-Wales into the National Grid main line which runs north to south through Shropshire.

Now the Shropshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has added its voice to the protests.

The CPRE has organised a meeting before its AGM at the Shrewsbury Room in the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm for those against the proposals to "discuss tactics".

Appalled

A spokesman for the group said: "The Shropshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is appalled by National Grid's proposals."

Kinnerley Parish Council has also been asked to put the issue on its meeting agenda on May 17 by residents after more than 70 people met at Maesbrook Village Hall to learn about the plans.

Councillor Roger Davies, from the Maesbrook ward, attended the meeting and said people were against the proposals.

by Graham Breeze

Julie Lyons, also at the meeting, said people were opposed to the plans and they voiced fears over property devaluation and the effects on tourism and the countryside.

She said: "All present agreed it must be opposed."

Councillor for Nesscliffe Parish Council, David Roberts, said after its recent meeting they decided to join other parishes.

He said: "We are liaising with other parish councils to be a united voice.

"All parish councils will be opposed to these pylons."

The 400kV connection would run from a new substation built at either Cefn Coch or Abermule and take one of 10 suggested routes to feed into the National Grid at either Lower Frankton or Wigmarsh, near Oswestry, or Walford Heath, near Baschurch.

A National Grid spokesman said no detailed route had yet been chosen.

Pylons compensation call

At the meeting – back, from left, NFU regional director, David Collier, with land owner and NFU member Malcolm Roberts. Front, from left, NFU agent for Oswestry, Mark Jones, policy advisor for the NFU, Sarah Faulkner, and Shropshire County Chairman for the NFU, Rob Alderson. *Picture: Peter Flemmich*

FARMERS MUST be properly compensated if electricity pylons cross their land to connect wind farms in Mid Wales to the National Grid, a farmer has said.

Edward Wigley, who farms near Oswestry, said pylons on his land had severely affected his working methods. He was speaking at a meeting called by the National Farmers' Union which is looking at plans by the National Grid for a 400,000 volt line.

The pylons, the largest structures used in the National Grid, could run along one of 10 suggested corridors to connect to the grid at Walford Heath, Wigmarsh or Lower Frankton. Mr Wigley told the meeting at Oswestry Rugby Club: "A pylon in the middle of a field destroys the field. If they are coming overhead we need to ensure the maximum compensation. Pylons completely change a field. If you are working the field it takes far longer. There is complete disruption."

Farmers said they were concerned about health risks and others said the line should go underground. Many were against windfarms. They said the route with the least environmental impact should be a priority.

David Morris, from West Felton, said the scheme should go on hold while investigations were carried out. He added: "If we don't want these overhead lines then we could hold out for compulsory purchase – that could stall the project."

Plans for ballot on electric proposal

MONTGOMERYSHIRE is set to go to the polls again – this time to vote on the subject of wind turbines, a substation and electricity pylons across the area.

The move follows a meeting of the Montgomeryshire Local Council Forum which voted to seek public views by holding a public ballot.

The forum, made up of the area's local community and town councils, has been voicing concerns for three years and has already petitioned parliament and the Welsh Assembly Government.

A public vote on a range of questions will take place from June 11 to June 16 in each of the communities represented, including Welshpool, Newtown, Llandrino, Landisillio, Llanfyllyn, Llanfechain and Kerry.

Other community councils affected will be offered the chance to join in, including Montgomery, Llanfair Caereinion, Castle Caereinion, Abermule, Llanymynech, Criggion, Forden/Leighton, Guilsfield and others.

The questions will range from wind farms, pylon lines, electricity hubs, transport and looking at seeking a public inquiry into the whole basis of TAN8, the planning guidance for the projects.

Forum secretary Robert Robinson said: "There will be information issued prior to the voting week and this will not be biased one way or the other but give the facts so that people can make up their own minds."

The survey count will be held at Welshpool Town Hall on Friday, June 17.

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Mulberry Bush Boutique was founded in the summer of 2010 by mother and daughter team Jackie Dooley and Kristen Hughes, who between them have over 40 year's personal experience of all things maternity and children!

Here at Mulberry Bush Boutique, our motto is, if you can't find it, we will'.

We are retailers of clothes and accessories for babies, children and expectant mothers too! We have a premature baby range, one of the few stockists in the county, which starts from just 3lb in weight for that tiny bundle of joy and we have the best Mother & Baby room in Oswestry (no purchases necessary).

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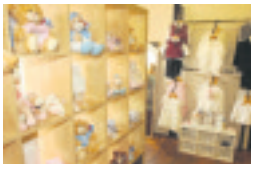

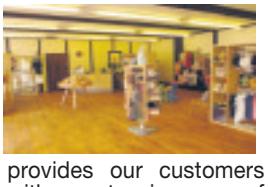

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Mark sheds pounds to clinch slimming title

The new slimline Mark Roberts

Before the weight loss – Mark Roberts was 24 stone at his heaviest

by Graham Breeze

AN OSWESTRY man has been named the town's Slimming World man of the year after shedding an amazing 9st 2lb.

Mark Roberts joined the local Slimming World group in January 2010 when his weight ballooned to 24 stone and has now dropped to less than 15 stone.

Mark, a married man with two children, now goes forward to the area finals where he will compete against fellow slimmers from Cheshire, Staffordshire and Shropshire.

And as a reward Mark, who works at Stadco in Llanfyllin, was taken along to Chequers Outfitters in Shrewsbury where the owner Terry Roberts demonstrated the way for him to show off his new shape.

Mark's waist dropped from 52in to 36in while his collar size plunged six inches from 22.5in to 16.5in.

"My health has improved and now I feel a different person," said Mark.

"It wasn't easy to join the group but they were all incredibly supportive.

"I enjoyed attending the weekly sessions and found different ways to cook my favourite foods while still losing a wonderful amount of weight."

Oswestry Slimming World organiser Jan Evans was full of praise for Mark's efforts.

She said: "He has lost the equivalent of my own weight which is a quite remarkable achievement.

"He was able to lose this fantastic amount of weight without giving up the things he enjoys such as a pint, some chocolate and crisps.

"People are now passing Mark in the street without recognising him and he is a shining example of what can be achieved.

"He was feeling very down and unhealthy before taking the brave step to join the group. But he knew he needed to make changes in his life."

Slimming World sessions are held in Oswestry from 10am to 12noon and 5pm to 6.45pm on Wednesdays. For details telephone (01691) 658323.

Hospital calls for election nominee

SHROPSHIRE'S ORTHOPAEDIC hospital has reached the final stages of its bid to become a foundation trust.

The hospital, at Gobowen near Oswestry, is inviting people to send in their nominations for a position on the Council of Governors for one vacancy. Nominations need to be with the returning officer at the Electoral Reform Service by post by May 19.

Following elections in November and January, this is the last vacancy for a public governor. Their role is to support the aims and vision of the trust.

Katrina Morphet, hospital spokeswoman, said: "They need to be prepared to take full account of the needs and views of patients, local people and staff and to uphold the trust's commitment to equality and diversity.

"Nine shadow public governors have already been appointed for Shropshire, North Wales, Cheshire and Merseyside, West Midlands, Powys and one for the rest of England and Wales, but there is still a vacant position in Cheshire and Merseyside."

Ducks shot

DUCKS ON a Shropshire canal have been shot at with an air rifle. Shots were heard on Thursday at about 2.15pm, from possibly a .22 rifle or air gun, at Hindford, near Oswestry. A member of the public called police reporting that two birds had been hit.

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Parents reveal fears on school shake-up

Hundreds pack education talks

HUNDREDS OF protesters packed into Llanfyllin High School to air views over planned changes to sixth form education. Three rooms were used to hold the 700 people who attended the meeting.

The evening was organised for Powys County Council to hear people's thoughts on its plans for a shake-up of secondary and sixth form education in mid Wales. Plans for Llanfyllin High School include options to merge it with Caereinion High School, be part of a Welsh medium reorganisation plan or move students to a post-16 "hub".

Tom Ellis was a pupil at the school in 1951 and he returned as a teacher until retirement. He said it would "send me to my grave" if officials followed through with proposals and pleaded with officials to "consider Llanfyllin in isolation".

The public also pleaded with officials not to take the Welsh language away from the school curriculum.

Huw Williams, Llanrhaeadr community councillor, said: "I am astonished to be standing here. I never thought I would be in a Welsh school in Wales pleading for the Welsh language to be kept in Llanfyllin School. We live our lives as Welsh people, don't you dare take our language away from us. This is a threat to our heritage and our language."

Paul Griffiths, from Powys County Council, said: "We are at the beginning of the processes. We are here to understand issues."

HUNDREDS OF parents, pupils and staff turned out for a crunch meeting on the future of secondary education in Powys.

People packed into Caereinion Leisure Centre, in Llanfair Caereinion, to voice concerns at planned changes to secondary and sixth form education.

Proposals for Llanfair Caereinion School form part of Powys County Council's plans for a shake-up of secondary and sixth form education in Mid Wales.

The council has now held meetings at all 13 secondary schools and Coleg Powys campuses across the county.

Plans which could result in the closure of sixth forms have already been approved by councillors. Management could also be streamlined and schools merged.

Proud

But Councillor Viola Evans, the town's county councillor, said the school was something the community was immensely proud of.

She said: "I would like to see the figures for the shortfall in numbers of pupils and also the funding because our school is doing very well, thank you very much.

"We have extremely talented teachers and they have had this consultation hanging over their heads creating a great worry.

"I am also concerned that taking children to other schools by bus will do nothing to help reduce our carbon footprint.

"I need to see good solid facts from the council and will fight to ensure our school stays unaffected as it is."

Ken Astley, who has a number of grandchildren at the school, said he felt that Welsh Assembly funding was not sufficient in Powys.

He also accused Coleg Powys principal Simon Pirotte of "jumping on the bandwagon" to ensure the college had "more bums on seats".

He said: "The South Wales Assembly Government, as we call it here, has not done enough and it has let us down.

"I also think Coleg Powys is jumping on the bandwagon here.

"They used to do vocational stuff very well, but numbers are dwindling.

"They are only getting involved in this because they want more bums on seats when it has little to do with them."

But Mr Pirotte hit back, saying: "We do want more bums on seats, numbers are dwindling in education overall in Powys.

"But we work hard to ensure the right bum is on the right seat and would not jeopardise anything for that."

Focus on fostering

STAFF FROM Powys County Council's fostering and adoption teams will be out and about for the next two weeks as part of Foster Carer Fortnight.

The national awareness campaign will run from Monday to Friday and staff will visit seven towns in the county telling residents what is involved in becoming a foster carer.

Anyone who thinks fostering or adopting might be right for them should visit the team at the Tesco store in Welshpool on May 25. To find out more about fostering and adopting, contact the team on 01874 614030.

Laura's on top of the world

Laura Davies, 18, who has received a scholarship to the United States. *Picture: Simon Williams*

AN OSWESTRY student is off to America on a life-changing gap year experience after landing a scholarship.

Laura Davies, a year 13 student at Moreton Hall School, Weston Rhyn, has become one of only a handful of English students to be awarded the English Speaking Union's Scholarship for 2011/12.

The award means she can spend three terms at the Tabor Academy in Massachusetts.

The 18 year old will spend her time studying American literature and language and it will also give her the opportunity to travel.

She will be leaving in September after taking her A-level exams and will be there until mid-June when the academy term finishes.

She said: "I've been very lucky to be given this scholarship.

"Seeing first-hand how American schools work and sampling American life is such a great opportunity."

Head of spoken English at Moreton, Merriel Halsall-Williams, said: "This is an outstanding achievement by Laura and will be a life-changing gap year opportunity. We are delighted for her."

Moreton Hall has boarders from the age of eight years and provides 24-hour academic and pastoral support to its students.

NEWS in brief

Bike seized as locals complain

WELSHPOOL POLICE have seized a mini-motorcycle which was being used by an adult and a teenager in the Brook Street area of the town.

They received complaints from members of the public about the vehicle being used on the road on Sunday and Monday and have issued a warning about the use of the bikes.

"People are reminded that if they are using these sort of bikes then they need to be used on private land with the permission of the landowner or they are likely to be seized by the police and the offender will be prosecuted," said a spokesman.

"If they are used on the roads then the road traffic act does apply and the users will need a driving licence, insurance, MOT, tax and will need to be wearing a helmet.

"They will also incur garaging costs which start off at £150 pounds for the first day if the bike/vehicle is seized.

"This is another example of the community not willing to accept anti-social behaviour and working together with the police."

Proposal to open new vets surgery

PLANS HAVE been lodged to open a veterinary surgery in a village near Oswestry, creating three jobs.

The new business, if approval is given, will open at Unit Three, The Toll Bar, at Moors Bank in St Martins. An application by Llangollen man Clive Bourne has been lodged with Shropshire Council planners.

Four flee in arson attack on home

POLICE ARE investigating a deliberate attempt to set an Oswestry home on fire while four people were inside, including a toddler and a three-month-old baby.

A senior detective appealed for information to help identify the arsonists following the incident at a house in Maple Court shortly after 1am last Friday.

The fire service notified the police at about 1.20am they were attending the fire. Two adults – a man and a woman – and the two children escaped.

The woman suffered from the effects of smoke inhalation and was given oxygen.

Damage to the property was superficial, with scorch marks on the inside of the door and surrounds. There was also smoke damage to the premises.

Detective Inspector Mick Homden said: "This was a deliberate attempt to set the house on fire. It appears a substance was put through the letterbox and set alight.

"Fortunately, the two adults and two very young children were able to get out without serious mishap. But it could have resulted in a tragedy and the incident is being treated as arson."

Photo call

WELSHPOOL TOWN Council is compiling an official town calendar for 2012 and is calling on the area's amateur photographers to enter their pictures. The deadline to get entries in for the competition is May 31.

Joiners' gypsy cabin plans set off on road to success

by Graham Breeze

A JOINER from Four Crosses is hoping that his new idea will open the door to a life-changing opportunity.

Richard Moore has launched The Gypsy Cabin Company and is hoping to capture the market with his new and uniquely-designed wooden camping pods.

He has been working with wood since leaving school over 30 years ago and most recently has been running RCM Joinery, but now plans to concentrate all his efforts on the new venture.

"Our cabins provide a fantastic alternative for people who love the idea of camping, but can't face the thought of soggy canvas or hours struggling with guy-ropes," he said.

Details

"The cabins are meticulously crafted, and packed with thoughtful details to help people make the most of their holiday – from porch seating areas to lockable double doors.

"The rise of 'glamping' in the UK has been well documented in the press – it's camping for people who want a little more luxury while they holiday in the great outdoors. We think our cabins strike just the right note of comfortable camping."

Richard leads the construction team on every cabin, ensuring each is delivered with the same meticulous attention to detail at his Four Crosses workshop.

The cabins are already proving popular with campsite owners and are being used as additional accommodation by guesthouse owners.

"The cabins also help extend the normal camping season as they are not affected by weather conditions. They are warm inside when it's cold out and cool when it's hot," he added.

"They are a fantastic alternative to camping under canvas.

"The big attraction for site owners is that they can draw in customers from all sorts of different campers. You can be sure of a good holiday even if it rains."

The price of the cabins is £6,800. For more information visit: *http://www.gypsycabins.co.uk*

Hoping to capture the market – joiner Richard Moore with a gypsy cabin

NEWS in brief

Police thanks as tip ends in arrest

WELSHPOOL POLICE have praised the public after a man was arrested as the result of a tip-off.

The arrest is the second made in recent weeks following a spate of thefts of manhole covers in the area and follows a tip from a member of the public after a man was spotted behaving suspiciously.

Constable Jim Baines, of Welshpool Neighbourhood Policing team, said: "This is another example of the excellent assistance provided by members of the community to Welshpool Police.

"The prompt action by the witness detected this theft and very likely prevented other similar thefts taking place. Police would like to thank the individual involved and also encourage others who may see something that they think is suspicious to contact police on either 101 on a landline or 01267 222010 on a mobile."

Cheese firm sets sights on award

OWNERS AND staff at the Llanyblodwel-based Shropshire Cheese Company are keeping their fingers crossed for success at next week's Heart of England Fine Foods Diamond Awards.

The awards celebrate the best of local food and drink from across Staffordshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Birmingham and the Black Country.

The shortlisted company will find out if they have won in the dairy section at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole.

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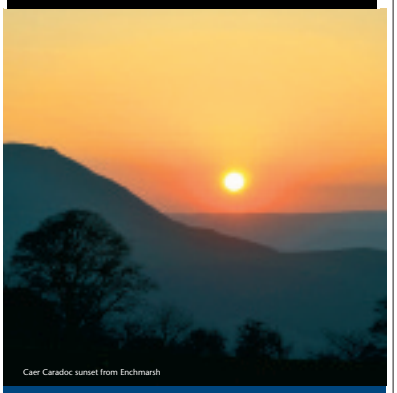
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Difficult time for landlords

LANDLORDS IN Oswestry are really getting their act together in their fight to clear their bars of illegal drugs.

The town needs to rid itself of the unwanted label of the UK's hotspot for the class C illegal drug GHB and publicans this week threw their weight behind a scheme that could see anyone suspected being tested or ejected.

The Shropshire Substance Misuse team want landlords to keep test kits behind their bars and anyone who fails or refuses a test will be shown the door.

Oswestry Pubwatch Group welcomed the plans this week and are now waiting for the go-ahead from the council before launching the scheme.

What a great idea. But an idea that will require strong policing by already stretched licensees.

I can foresee some very difficult situations when suspects are cornered and asked to take the test. Put yourself in the place of a lone figure behind the bar and you can see the confrontational issues coming from all directions.

It will be okay in theory and will work if you have doormen on hand to pose the questions – but putting ideas into practice might just prove too difficult.

□□□□□□□□□□□

DID ANYONE else out there feel the hairs on the back of their necks stand on end at this week's news that police may be given powers to give motorists instant fines and licence points?

I nearly drove into the back of the car in front as Moira Stewart interrupted the Chris Evans show with the news – which would have cost me a nice fine and three points!

Whatever happened to being innocent before being found guilty?

I have personally seen this system operating across Europe where scary and gun-toting officers cart you off to a hole in the wall if you don't have enough cash in the wallet to cough up for whatever figure they decide. And believe me, you don't argue with these guys.

Is that what we want in this country? I don't think so. Let's hope someone comes to their senses on this one. We all know it is just another cost-saving and cash rich exercise.

□□□□□□□□□□□

CONSERVATIVE candidate Russ George swept into power in the Welsh Assembly Government elections in Montgomeryshire last week – but did his main opponent really stand any chance?

Russ is one of those genuinely nice guys that you meet from time to time and his main opponent Wyn Williams never really stood a chance.

Wyn would have made a perfectly good AM for Montgomeryshire but the bad publicity brought to the county by first Lembit Opik and then the antics of former AM Mick Bates has damaged Liberalism in the once stronghold county.

The Lib Dems may never recover and decades of responsible Liberal control, led by Lord Emlyn Hooson and Lord Alex Carlile, may never return.

If someone had told me 20 years ago that I would be writing "Montgomeryshire is now completely blue" I would have called them mad!

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

with Graham Breeze

Railway dream firmly on the track to reality

PROFILE

with Thom Kennedy

HALF A mile of detached, isolated railway track might not seem like the start of a mighty journey, but it is in Oswestry.

It's not so much where that short piece of line will take you – it will take you to the other end and back, and you won't leave town – but what it represents.

Before the Easter bank holiday, it had been more than four decades since a passenger train last pulled out of Oswestry Station.

Generations have been born and grown to adulthood between services from the Oswald Road station.

But after a two-year project to restore trains to the town, the first service pulled out along the short stretch of track between the Victorian station building and the Middleton Road Bridge in the town over the Easter weekend.

Nigel Davies, chairman of Cambrian Heritage Railways which is leading the restoration, said the rebirth of the railway could have substantial benefits to the town.

"The enthusiasts and other visitors brought in through events on the railway is substantial. It encourages the visitors to explore the retail offered in Oswestry, that's vital.

Tourism

"Tourism has to be the main aim here.

"You always look for visitors' feedback, that's the most important thing, and we were very active in talking to as many passengers as we could as they disembarked. We didn't have one negative response.

"That to me was the most gratifying part of the last two years.

"And those people that did come are interested to see what happens next. We are developing and growing. They can come back every year and look at the new stretch that has been laid.

"This has been a real opportunity and we have taken it with both hands. When I saw the train running alongside the restored platform for the first time it did send shivers down my spine. It was the result of a lot of hard work."

Around 800 people packed onto the single carriage of the railway to enjoy the new service over that first long weekend in April.

Now it will continue to open throughout the summer, taking passengers across the short distance, while local people dream of bigger and better things for the reborn railway.

Backed by the Future Jobs Fund through Shrewsbury firm Imagematch, around 80 people in the last nine months have worked on restoring the railway in Oswestry.

Townspeople gather to watch the first train

Volunteers from Cambrian Heritage Railways Mathew Higgins with Phil Bradley on front of the Telemon engine

The early services saw a diesel engine and brake van shunting along the short stretch of track – an unusual choice for a railway, but a popular one.

Now it is only a matter of time before the railway moves on to bigger and better things, a state which is exciting the interests of everyone in Oswestry, according to Mr Davies.

He had not planned to get involved with the restoration of the platform and the railway, instead coming into the project, and bringing together various agencies, through his role with the old Oswestry Borough Council.

Now he is in place, however, he has plenty of enthusiasm for what has been achieved.

"You can gauge from businesses you speak to that everybody is really excited and waiting for this to be delivered," Mr Davies said.

"There's an air of excitement but that also raises an air of expectancy. We do have pressure upon us, but it's pressure we welcome.

Passengers

"In 12 months' time we would love to be able to say that all the transport works orders are in place and we can take passengers as far as Gobowen.

"It's only a small start but from small acorns, big oak trees grow. The community is very interested in the link to Gobowen, we would love to see people able to buy tickets at Oswestry Station to take them to anywhere in the country."

He added: "If you were ever going to do a project like this, it wouldn't be now, not with the current economic conditions.

"But there's some funding out there, and we can see light at the end of the tunnel. I've told the board we mustn't rely on grants, and if we do it isn't sustainable. We will do the best we can to fund it."

Passenger services from Oswestry ceased during the Beeching Cuts of the mid-60s and the platform at the station was partly demolished in the late 1980s to allow for freight traffic to pass through. This ended in 1988 and the line has remained dormant ever since.

Llangollen's heritage railway carries around 120,000 paying passengers each year, while the Severn Valley enjoys around 230,000 passengers, providing a hint at the influx of tourism the service could bring to the region.

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Migrants allowed to come and go

THE TREATY of Rome (1957) committed member states to allow free movement for citizens across internal borders. It was expanded and developed into the Schengen Agreement in 1985, it acquired the dizzy heights of a European Union Convention in 1995 and now includes all member countries except the UK and Ireland.

Britain was reluctant to surrender its border controls and work-permit system. This, of course is political bilge fed to us by a deceitful Westminster.

The reality is that one in eight people living in Britain today was born abroad. The reality is that 6.9 million immigrants have arrived in the last decade, 16 per cent of school children do not have English as a first language and that one in four babies born today has a foreign mother.

Our border controls are clearly non-existent and it is obvious to all that European Union citizens and illegal immigrants alike come and go as they please. The politicians who loudly asserted that mass immigration boosted our economy by £6 billion per annum only whispered that the annual cost to the taxpayer was £8.86bn.

Ask the police who report a significant crimewave from incoming European Union citizens – 6,770 Poles convicted in 2010, Romanians 4,343, Lithuanians 4,176, Irish 2,423 and even, 1,032 Frenchmen.

The European Union Open Borders policy is still inflicting serious damage to our society and social order and only withdrawal from this flawed union will solve the problem.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Be more thankful

FIRST CALL when we get up is a visit to the bathroom, but are you ever thankful, when you realise that there are over two billion people in the world who haven't got a toilet? Water on tap would be heaven to billions of women who have to carry the heavy load daily.

In Oswestry there has been much grumbling about the disruption caused by the water board digging up the roads to renew the mains.

There are lots of poor people who would hold a celebration party if they had that news.

RON JONES
St Martins

Care hit by understaffing

THERE HAS recently been much criticism levied at today's modern nurses, predominantly surrounding the graduate path which all nurses have to follow; and while not completely convinced that this solitary pathway produces better nurses, I have considerable empathy with the profession.

The issue is not that modern nurses are "too posh to wash", or indeed "too clever to care". It is that hospitals are hugely understaffed, and there is not enough nursing staff available to make the difference. Nursing staff today do not have the luxury of time to spend with patients on an individual basis, and with current budget cuts within the NHS, the situation will only get worse.

Out of an intake of over 80 student nurses (of which just over 40 will qualify this summer) I understand that just three have gained a promise of full-time employment within the NHS.

It is no wonder that the Royal College of Nursing, for the first time in their 92-year history have recently passed a "no confidence" motion against Andrew Lansley and his disastrous NHS reforms.

It remains to be seen if this coalition government will listen, and abandon a Health Bill which is so universally criticised .

PETER SAYLES
Trefonen

It's August 1969, and Father McManus and Sister Stephanie, headmistress of Oswestry Roman Catholic School, are keeping an eye on the progress of the building of the new school extensions. They were due for completion the following January. The photographer was John Tibbott.

Fear wives get quick divorces by telling lies

I READ IN the Oswestry Chronicle (April 28), that Alison Monaghan, a solicitor at GHP Legal Oswestry, says there has been a substantial increase in domestic abuse cases in recent years. I wonder if this is because a lot of the women make up the stories to get a quick divorce?

I am not saying all of the women, but the biggest part of them go to a solicitor and tell lie after lie. This happened to my son, happily married for 15 years, two children and she just walked out on him taking the children, no explanation just went and there was no domestic abuse in that house.

But she went to her solicitor telling them she had been abused when there was no proof whatsoever, and they do this just to get a quick divorce because they have met someone else. She has stopped him seeing the children.

It's about time that fathers were treated better and it is not all for the women, like it is today. Surely there is somebody out there that can help fathers? My ex-daughter-in-law has shown no proof whatsoever of domestic abuse, so come on you solicitors; do your jobs properly.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Remember casualties of creating 'one' world

EVERYONE IS taught that racism is unacceptable and possibly rightly so, because it divides people on grounds of race. Wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya are fine examples of racist wars, to gain control of other countries' assets.

Xenophobia is completely different as it is a dislike and mistrust of all foreigners, and individuals can tailor it to their own circumstances.

For instance, I have some Slovak friends, but feel there are one too many in the UK. At the moment I have a loathing for Hungarians as my wife is going to leave me and migrate to Hungary to live with one of these people.

As a result, I have suffered a breakdown and have to have time off work to recover. I am not the only person to suffer this fate.

Liberals dream of one world and one people, but please don't forget the casualties you will create as you build your dreams.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Complaint by US was two-faced

LISTENING TO the news on TV (April 26), there was a report about the USA and Syria.

It was the US moaning about the unrest in Syria and withdrawing US citizens.

This is very two-faced when the USA attacked Iraq next door to Syria, one of the oldest nations in the world and smashed it to bits with the help of the UK.

Syria's troubles are their own to settle without others sticking their oars in.

Same with Libya.

When you are pure, then you have a reason to complain. Neither the USA nor the UK are.

T ASTLEY
Llanymynech

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 222451	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Council attitude affected bowling

I HAVE READ in your columns that Oswestry Town Mayor is saddened that the one remaining bowling green in Oswestry Park has been little used in the last few years.

Yes, there used to be two, and at least two bowling clubs used it for many years. Both clubs paid rent to the council but finally moved because of the attitude of the council.

On numerous occasions when a league match was taking a little longer than usual, the park keeper still insisted on locking the park gates and going home. Consequently players had to climb over the railings to get out. This was extremely embarrassing, especially when some of the visiting players were ladies. Pleas were made to the authorities but to no avail. Perhaps the council would like to comment?

D G NORRIS, Oswestry

Difference in pensions

MAY I THROUGH your letters page correct the pensions figures quoted in newspapers and repeated on TV and radio.

Not all pensioners get the £98 or so pension.

I think you will find that amount is for married men and ladies on their own.

I certainly get less than two thirds of that amount and I have been married to my husband for 47 and a half years.

When people read and hear about these amounts, they presume we all get it.

MRS JULIE WYGOLD
Welshpool

Cut Trident

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ALLAN TUCKER
Oswestry

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Guide Price: £122,500

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Guide Price: £148,000

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The flying display line-up for this year's Cosford Air Show is set to feature a host of top aircraft and spectacular aerobatic teams and we have 15 pairs of tickets for the show to be won in today's competition.

A five-hour flying display wows the crowds at the event every year and 2011 will see dozens of aircraft from all ages of flight coming together for an afternoon of entertainment.

Among the stars taking to the air will be the Hawk, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, a Tutor, Tucano, F-86 Sabre, the Avro Vulcan, Spitfire and Hurricane.

And the jaw-dropping aerobatic teams will be back with a few new acts to add to the entertainment .

As well as the excitement in the air, the crowds will also be able to enjoy a wide variety of entertainment on the ground with a fun fair, craft fair, market and aircraft exhibition as well as entry to the RAF museum.

Tickets will be £25.00 on the gate (only cash will be accepted on the day), £19.00 in advance, and free for children under 16 when they are accompanied by an adult.

Postal bookings should be received on or before June 5. All major credit cards are accepted on the 24-hour ticket line: 0871 230 1083 (calls charged at national rate).

Tickets are also available from the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shropshire Star offices, Tourist Information Centres in Stafford and Birmingham and in Mid Counties Co-Operative stores.

For full information go to www.cosfordairshow.co.uk – or call 0844 561 1897 (calls charged at 5p per min.)

Cosford Air Show Competition (weeklies)

Answer .....

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Surname .....

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I have read the rules and agree to abide by them

Signature .....

How to enter:

For your chance to win a pair of tickets, simply answer the following question and send your entry to:

Cosford Competition (weeklies0
Star Promotions
PO Box 40
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Question: What is the name of the Royal Air Force aerobatics team?

Entrants must be aged 18 or over. The closing date for entries is Monday, May 23, 2011. The first 15 correct entries selected at random after the closing date will receive the prizes. The winners will be notified by post. There are no cash alternatives and the prizes are non-transferable. Employees (or their immediate relatives) of the MNA group of companies/Cosford Air Show may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is

Pupils put focus on field studies

PUPILS FROM Llanfyllin Primary School visited Lake Vyrnwy to undertake a field study on the lake, incorporating the work into their history, science and art lessons. From left, Ifan Jones, Gethin Jones, both nine, and Catherine Howells, 10. ***Picture: Peter Flemmich***

School upset as chairman quits

A CLOSURE-THREATENED Oswestry village school has lost its second chairman of governors within weeks.

Tony Milner has resigned as chairman of the board at Maesbury Primary School just over a month after stepping into the breach left by the previous chairman.

Mr Milner did not want to comment but confirmed he was no longer in the role. He will still remain as an active member of the board.

The primary school is facing the axe under a hard-hitting education review by Shropshire Council in which nine schools are earmarked for closure.

Parents at the school revealed they did not want to send their children to Kinnerley School, which is the recommended alternative. Last week the school was offered a six-week lifeline, along with three other primary schools in the area and Wakeman secondary in Shrewsbury, to come up with a viable alternative.

Now school supporters, governors and the headteacher are trying to put together a solid proposal to bring back to cabinet.

Mr Milner became the chairman of the governors when Dawn Jones resigned from the post in March.

Rosemary Finney, headteacher, said: "The chair of the governors stepped down but he is still on the governing body board.

"He felt that he could best serve the needs of the school by being on the board rather than the chair."

Supporters of Maesbury school say the fight to save it is not over and they are looking into finding a way to get Academy status. This would take the control away from Shropshire Council.

Full sail ahead as club has open day

SHROPSHIRE'S oldest sailing club is throwing open its doors at Ellesmere on Sunday to promote itself and the sport.

Shropshire SC will be open between 11am and 3pm to welcome guests and, subject to the wind conditions, members will take visitors out on the water for short rides.

Club member John James said: "We've been here for years, but we're always surprised by the number of people who are surprised to find us here. We're a friendly club and we do everything here from cruising in the middle of summer, to racing all year round."

He added: "People are welcome to come along and get out on the water, or sit, have a picnic and admire the view."

Tree-lined Whitemere is a 65-acre site of special scientific interest and lies two miles south of Ellesmere, signposted from the A528.

The club, founded in 1950, uses qualified instructors, approved by the Royal Yachting Association, to coach juniors and adults.

Crash plea

POLICE IN Oswestry are seeking witnesses to a road collision involving a grey Land Rover Freelander and a red Subaru.

It happened in the Morda Road/Church Street area just before 7am on Sunday. No-one was injured.

The driver of the Subaru failed to stop. Contact police on 0300 333 3000.

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20th - 24th- Eastbourne - The York House*** Eastbourne 5 Days £299
INCLUDES; Four Nights DBB, Entertainment, Excursions Inc; Brighton, Worthing Lewes & Royal Tunbridge Wells

22nd - 27th Torquay - The Toorak Hotel*** Torquay 6 Days £375
INCLUDES; Five Nights DBB, Entertainment, Excursions Inc; Totnes, Dartmouth, Exeter & Sidmouth

23rd - 27th-Monschau & The Eifel Mountains - Hotel Caratt*** Monshau 5 Days £325
INCLUDES; Four nights DBB, Welcome Drink, Skittles Night, 2 Excursions inc; Koln, Aachen & Eifel Mountains.

23rd - 27th - Norfolk Treasures - Oaklands Hotel*** Norwich 5 Days £285
INCLUDES; Four Nights DBB, Excursions Inc; Entries to Norfolk Lavender and Sandringham. Norwich, Swaffham, Ely & Thetford. Stratford-Upon-Avon, Swindon Designer Outlet Village, Cirencester & the Cotswolds.

31st - 7th - Cantabria - Green Spain - Hotel Olimpo****, Isia Cantabria. 8 Days £499
INCLUDES; Two Nights Accomodation on the Brittany Ferry, 4 Nights DBB at Resort, Welcome Drink, Tea/Coffee After Dinner, **2 Excursions inc;** Santillana del Mar, Potes & Picos de Europa Mountains.

JUNE

5th - 9th-Jacobite Steam Experience - West End Hotel*** Fort William 5 Days £395
INCLUDES; Four Nights DBB, One Nights Entertainment, **Excursions Inc;** 84 Mile Return Journey on the Fort William to Mallaig Jacobite Express, Tour of Loch Lochy, Loch Ness, Fort Augustus, Aviemore & Newtownmore.

6th - 10th -Great Yarmouth - The Comfort Hotel*** Great Yarmouth 5 Days £279
INCLUDES; Four Nights DBB, 2 Nights Entertainment, **Excursions Inc;** Sheringham, Cromer, Wroxham & Norwich

10th - 13th- Llandudno - Merrion Hotel*** Llandudno 4 Days £269
INCLUDES; Three Nights DBB, **Excursions Inc;** Narrow Gauge Train Ride from Caernarfon to Rhyd Ddu, and a visit to Beddgelert.

11th - 17th- Jersey by Air - Hotels - Ambassadeur, St Clement, or Norfolk Lodge or Horfolk St Hellier 7 Days From £518
INCLUDES; Flights, Taxes, and Transfers, Meet & Greet, Six Nights DBB, Entertainment, Half Day Excursion

11th - 17th-Shanklin, Isle of Wight - Shanklin Hotel*** Shanklin 7 Days £435
INCLUDES; Six Nights DBB, Entertainment, Excursions Inc; Entry to Osborne House. Newport, Godshill, Yarmouth, Ryde & Sandown

11th - 19th-Austria - Pfunds & Three Countries - Hotel Zur Post*** Pfunds 9 Days £619
INCLUDES; Two Overnights DBB , Six Nights DBB at Resort, (inc a Gala Dinner) 2 Evenings Entertainment, Walk Tour of Pfunds, **4 Excursions inc;** Bernina Express & Vinschgerbahn (Wine Train) Train Rides, Scenic Drive of the Scenic Kaunertal Glacier Route, St Moritz, Samnaun (Home of the first double decker cable car)

12th - 17th-Bournemouth - Trouville Hotel*** Bournemouth 6 Days £349
INCLUDES; Five Nights DBB, **Excursions Inc;** Poole, weymouth, Day on the Isle of Wight inc Shanklin & Godshill.

16th - 20th- Romantic Journeys of the South - Village Hotel*** Maidstone 5 Days £335
INCLUDES; Four Nights DBB, **Excursions Inc;** Entries to Biddenden Vineyards, Walk Tour of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Bewl Water Cruise, Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway. Visits to Pluckley & Rye.

17th - 20th- Hampshire & the Isle of Wight - Dolphin Hotel*** Southampton 4 Days £190
INCLUDES; Three Nights DBB, Excursions Inc; A day on the Isle of Wight, Winchester, Portsmouth, Chichester & Bath.

20th - 24th-Worthing - Chatsworth Hotel*** Worthing 5 Days £329
INCLUDES; Four Nights DBB, 2 Nights Enterainment, Excursions Inc; Entry to Herstmonceux Castle, Eastbourne, Chichester & Worthing.

24th - 26th-Mystery Tour - 3*** or 4**** Hotel 3 Days £139
INCLUDES; Two Nights DBB & Excursions to Local Places of Interest.

27th - 1st- Scarborough & The Yorkshire Coast - Ambassador Hotel*** Scarborough 5 Days £329
INCLUDES; Four Nights DBB, Welcome Tea/Coffee, Entertainment, **Excursions inc;** Entry to Castle Howard, Kilburn, Helmsley & Bridlington.

27th - 1st- Ilfracombe- Carlton Hotel***Ilfracombe 5 Days £275
INCLUDES; Four Nights DBB, Two Nights Entertainment, **Excursions Inc;** Bideford, Barnstable, Exmoor National Park, Lynmouth, Lynton,Minehead & Dunster

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Unlock garden secrets

A 'WALK AROUND the Borders' tour is being held at Powis Castle, near Welshpool, on May 18 from 11.30am to 1pm. The walk is one of the castle's behind-the-scene tours which lets visitors into areas that are normally closed to the public. The garden walk will be led by one of the garden professionals. In one of the borders is French student, 20-year-old Magali Esling, from Blois, who is on work experience at the castle. *Picture: Simon Williams*

Carnival route is altered

by Graham Breeze

HISTORY WILL be made when Welshpool Carnival procession runs in reverse this year due to the one-way system which has been installed since the last event.

The new route has been agreed for the procession of lorries which will now start from the Berriew Street Car Park before heading up Broad Street on Bank Holiday Monday, May 30.

The procession will then continue up Berriew Street before turning left onto Broad Street. It will follow the one-way down Jehu Road to Brook Street and then run along the back road to Church Street.

From there it will continue left at the lights to Severn Street and into Howells Drive for Maes y Dre.

Attractions

Hundreds of people are expected to descend on the town and dozens of attractions have been lined up for the day's event with organisers keeping their fingers-crossed for good weather.

Organisations are now being urged to take part in the grand parade led by 11-year-old Rhian Thomas, from Gungrog Hill, Welshpool,who is this year's carnival queen.

Crowds are set to enjoy a procession, dog show, dance troupes, various stalls and competitions, bands, a high wire act, fairground, burger vans, sweets, a tombola and much more.

The procession is due to leave Berriew Street car park at 1pm and the parade is open to floats and walking entries. Stall and car boot pitches will also be available.

Organisers have now appealed for town businesses to go along and join in the fun and are also looking for volunteers to help out during the day's events.

Trish Hodges, secretary of the carnival, said: "The call goes out to all pubs, clubs, businesses and organisations to take part and anyone who can help for a few hours on the day should also get in touch. It would be appreciated if any pubs, clubs and shops could make an effort to enter to help make the carnival parade a success."

For more details and to register call Trish Hodges on (01938) 556896. Admission for the event will be £2.

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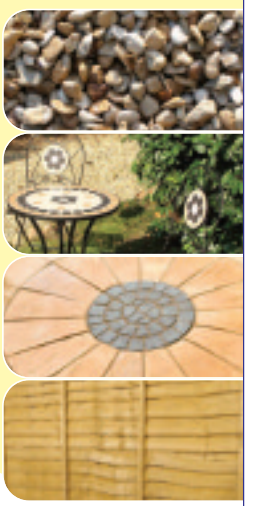

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Opera star's song to aid 999 service

by Graham Breeze

OPERA STAR Bryn Terfel has recorded a song for the Welshpool-based Wales Air Ambulance's 10th birthday, to help raise funds for the life-saving charity.

The track, titled Anfonaf Angel, was written by BBC presenter Hywel Gwynfryn and composed by songwriter Robat Arwyn. The Welsh National Orchestra joined Bryn to record the track, after working together on his Christmas album last year.

Following the success of Wales Air Ambulance's first music compilation, On Air, which featured Bryn alongside Stereophonics and Only Men Aloud, the famous bass-baritone decided to dedicate a song especially for the helicopter charity.

Birthday

He said: "I've been patron of Wales Air Ambulance for many years and am absolutely passionate for this cause. I wanted to do something special for the charity's 10th anniversary, and a song called 'Angel' seemed a perfect birthday present."

Studio Sain, which also worked on the compilation On Air, came back on board to produce Anfonaf Angel.

Sain chief executive Dafydd Roberts said: "We were delighted to work with Wales Air Ambulance to produce this CD single. This is such an important charity for Wales and we are proud to help bring it into the world of music."

The first 1,000 copies have been sponsored by Principality Building Society, whose staff have nominated Wales Air Ambulance as their charity of the year.

Wales Air Ambulance chief executive Angela Hughes added: "We are incredibly grateful to Bryn and everyone who has given us this wonderful opportunity to help celebrate our 10th anniversary and raise vital funds for the charity.

"Anfonaf Angel is a beautiful song and we are thrilled to have this song dedicated to us."

The single will be available to buy in Wales Air Ambulance shops, Welsh record outlets and on the charity's website. The CD is priced at £3.99 with all proceeds going direct to Wales Air Ambulance.

Wales Air Ambulance is an all-Wales charity providing vital emergency air cover for those who face life-threatening illness or injuries. The service has carried out over 14,000 missions to date since its launch on St David's Day 2001.

The cost of sustaining the three helicopters, based at Welshpool, Caernarfon and Swansea currently stands at over £5 million each year. As a registered charity the service is wholly dependent on public donations, and does not get any support from the national lottery or the government.

Pupils' playtime fun

Having fun in the wendy house, which is part of the foundation phase outdoor area at Forden Church in Wales School, near Welshpool, are two of the new school intake three-year-olds, left to right, Dylan Davies and Lily Bumford. *Picture: Simon Williams*

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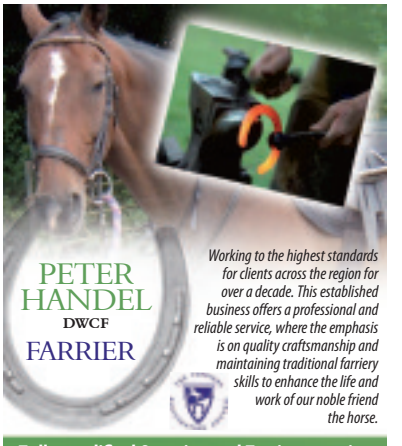

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Helping funds blossom

A FUNDRAISING COFFEE morning in aid of Welshpool Evening Flower Club was held at the Church House in Welshpool at the weekend. The flower club meet on the second Tuesday of every month at Welshpool Methodist Church and new members are always welcome. Helping out at their annual coffee morning is club chairman Nin Chapman. *Picture: Simon Williams*

Tuffin in finals of awards

by Graham Breeze

CHURCHSTOKE-based retailer Harry Tuffin was this week named as a finalist in The Grocer Gold Awards for 2011.

The family retailer with stores across Wales, Shropshire and Gloucestershire has been serving the Welshpool area since 1950 and is selected as a finalist in the category of Independent Retail Chain.

Recognising the best of the best in grocery retail for service, initiative and commitment, The Grocer Gold awards are held in high regard by all within the industry.

Harry Tuffin's managing director, Paul Delves, said: "Selected as finalists in The Grocer Gold Awards 2011 is a fantastic achievement for the whole team.

"Last year saw the largest growth period in our history, with the acquisition of three convenience stores, giving us the extra buying power essential to have the competitive edge over ever increasing competition.

"Turnover, like for like, at Tuffins was up six per cent for 2010/11 and overall shop turnover was up 20 per cent for the same period, excluding petrol sales. These figures stand up even with the most difficult weather and trading conditions last year.

"Our business was established in 1950 by my grandfather and we are proud to be where we are today, a successful company, serving our customers and right at the heart of our communities whilst remaining truly independent."

The Grocer Gold awards ceremony will take place on June 15, at the Guildhall in London.

Harry Tuffins is a family-owned independent retailer with 10 supermarkets and convenience stores with eight branches having adjacent Texaco petrol forecourts and employing over 500 people.

Pupils to get sporty

HIGH SCHOOL pupils from Welshpool, Llanfyllin and Llanfair Caereinion are taking on sporting ambassador roles.

They are among a group of secondary school pupils from across Powys who will be encouraging their classmates to take part in sporting activities in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. Twenty six pupils have become silver ambassadors and they will now promote sports to children within their schools.

The initiative is part of the Young Ambassador Movement which is aiming to inspire young people to become role models through sport. Each secondary school in the county has nominated two pupils as silver ambassadors, who will also be referred to as adiStar leaders.

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Council's rate offer on empty premises

THE OWNERS of Oswestry's empty shops may escape paying rates if they join an arts scheme transforming the town centre.

The Footfall scheme takes artwork, often from students, and exhibits it in empty shop windows.

Some projects have even seen the empty shops open temporarily to host exhibitions.

Now Shropshire Council has offered the owners of empty shops in Oswestry the chance to avoid paying empty property rates if they work with the Footfall project.

Wendy Unwin, from Footfall, said that in 2009 when the project began there were 30 empty shops in Oswestry.

"Now there are fewer than 15," she said.

"One of the first shops that Footfall exhibited in sold very shortly after the exhibition and another, the Motorworld store, at one of the major entrances to the retail centre, has also been sold."

Another Footfall member, Buzz Thomas, said it had been very difficult at the beginning to persuade shop owners to allow their premises to be used.

"We are now getting a lot of interest from owners, thanks to Shropshire Council stating that empty shops rates can be waived if Footfall is in the premises."

George Candler, Shropshire Council's area director for the north, said: 'I'm delighted that Shropshire Council's role in Footfall has helped the partnership have such a positive effect."

Martti Caller, Josh Coldwell, Charlee Jones and Shannon Graham

Seb Pierpoint and Hollie Jones

Josh Kirk, Harry Thomas, Darren Booth and Matt Napper

Beth Griffiths and Courtney Jehu

Joe Morris, Max Jones, Seb Pierpoint and Elliott Jones

Youngsters dress to impress

ALL DRESSED up with somewhere to go – that was the pupils from The Marches School and Technology College at their annual prom.

Year 11 pupils dressed in style for the event, which was held at The Greenhous Meadow, the home of Shrewsbury Town Football Club – the first time the prom has been held outside Oswestry.

Pupils arrived in stretch limos, a double-decker London Transport bus and an array of sports cars for last Friday's event which was attended by 185 pupils and staff. "It was a wonderful occasion," said Claire Cass, assistant key 4 stage leader at the school, who was responsible for organising the night out.

"The pupils and their parents went to a lot of trouble and cost to make sure that this was a night to remember and they all looked magnificent and were a credit to the school."

Pupils posed for photographs before enjoying a three-course dinner and the highlights of the evening included speeches by head pupils Emily J Jones and Matt Napper.

"The event has grown and grown and we needed a bigger venue and the football ground was the perfect location even though it posed a few transport issues and we needed to lay on a coach and minibus from the school.

"We had heard good things about the venue and decided to make the 2011 event a little different," she added.

"It is a learning experience for the pupils who are all aged between 15 and 16 but they responded superbly and the school was extremely proud of them. It was great to see all the stretch limos and the London Transport bus was a very impressive addition. This has become quite an event."

Laura Robbins, Charlotte Doidge and Hannah Almond. *Pictures: Pete Shah*

NEWS in brief

Search for owner of lost tape spool

POLICE IN Shropshire are trying to find the owners of an unusual item of lost property.

A large tape spool of film or music was handed in at Wem police station. It was found on the public footpath around the mere at Colemere, near Ellesmere.

A West Mercia Police spokesperson said: "The spool is of the old-fashioned type and likely to be of considerable value to its owner. It's a TDK make and is boxed with a list of what's on the tape.

"Hopefully, the owner will come forward to claim it."

Contact the property officer at Wem police station on 0300 333 3000 to make a claim.

Police plea to find driver after crash

OFFICERS ARE seeking information about a collision at Rhyd y Groes, near Welshpool, when a vehicle collided with metal fencing before being driven off.

The incident happened between Marton and Forden between May 1 and May 2. The collision caused over £100 worth of damage, said Sergeant Darren Brown.

"The vehicle has then left the scene, leaving behind parts of the damaged vehicle at the scene. We are appealing for the driver to come forward."

Car boot bargains

WELSHPOOL'S MAESYDRE School Parent Teachers' Association has a car boot sale on May 21 from 8am with pitches costing £5 if pre-booked or £6 on the day. Funds will go towards school equipment Call (01938) 552971.

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DINGLE NURSERIES and garden, near Welshpool, is holding an open garden day this Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15, from 9am to 5pm as part of the National Gardens Scheme. Entry is 3.50 for adults with children free. Amongst the Azaleas is Diane Pugh from the Dingle. *Picture: Simon Williams*

OSWESTRY MP Owen Paterson has urged the Government to reclassify the drug GHB after it was linked to two deaths in the county.

Mr Paterson is contacting Home Secretary Theresa May to urge her to consider upgrading the drug from Class C to Class B.

The move comes after Mr Paterson met some of the county's top police officers to discuss the problem.

Mr Paterson said: "I am told that the drug is extremely addictive and is being linked to two deaths in Oswestry, where it appears that there may be tens or even hundreds of people taking the drug on a regular basis.

x-head

"However, the drug is still classed only as Grade C.

"I congratulate West Mercia Police for taking this extremely seriously."

West Mercia Police has urged the Government to look at the way the drug is viewed after Oswestry was officially recognised as having more users per head of population than anywhere else in Britain.

Mr Paterson met with Superintendent Peter Lightwood, Detective Chief Inspector Alan Edwards, and Chief Inspectors David McWilliam and Martin Whitelegg at West Mercia's divisional headquarters in Shrewsbury.

"We agreed that West Mercia Police will write to me and I will pass on the request to the Home Secretary. We will be urging her to consider reclassifying GHB from Grade C to Grade B."

Last month police launched Operation Bubble, involving about 100 police officers. Teams of police raided eight homes, seven in Shropshire and made 13 arrests. These led to some people being cautioned and others being bailed while police made more inquiries.

The police operation was the culmination of up to six

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STUDENTS IN Oswestry helped organise a health promotion day aimed at highlighting the dangers of drugs.

The awareness event at the Oswestry campus of Walford and North Shropshire College took place on Wednesday.

College bosses said students have become concerned about the level of drug use in Oswestry.

College spokeswoman Mary Dominica said: "One group of four students arranged for the police, people from the Kingswell Centre and various other organisations to come in to talk about the dangers of drugs such as GHB, GBL and Meow

"Given the recent drug activity in Oswestry, it is not surprising that most of this group know of people who have either died or whose lives have been adversely affected by

Upset as A5 safety call sees no result

A CAMPAIGNER who called for safety improvements on the A5 Chirk bypass bridge after a horror crash which killed two motorists has conceded there is probably "no chance of the work being done any time soon".

Although Chirk mother Sally Poppit vowed to carry on with her campaign, she said campaigners had to be "realistic", given the current economic climate.

Mrs Poppit launched her online Roar – Redesign Our A5 Road – campaign after the deaths of two motorists in March last year following a horrific collision.

More than 700 people signed up to the campaign, which suggested various improvements on the road, including a blanket overtaking ban and a reduction of the speed limit.

Calls for improvements increased after Mid and North Shropshire coroner John Ellery returned verdicts of accidental death on car driver Stuart Davies and lorry driver Hefin Jones, who died instantly in the smash on the bypass.

Chirk Town Council also called for improvements, urging roads bosses to introduce an overtaking ban as a matter of urgency.

Mrs Poppit said that with more than 12 months having passed since the collision, she was pessimistic about the chances of the safety work being carried out.

A Welsh Assembly Government spokesman confirmed there was no current plans for improvements on the bypass.

Political map is redrawn as George wins by 2,300 majority

Lib Dems feeling blue as Tories steal region's seat

THE POLITICAL map of Montgomeryshire has been redrawn after the Conservatives took the region's seat on the Welsh Assembly.

The Tories topped the polls to oust the Welsh Liberal Democrats from the seat which they have held since the Welsh Assembly formed in 1999. Conservative Russell George won by a majority of more than 2,300 votes in a result which left him jubilant.

Mr George, from Caersws, near Newtown, polled 10,026 votes – almost half of the total votes cast.

And his delighted supporters cheered enthusiastically as he took to the microphone to make his acceptance speech at Welshpool last week. He said: "It is a great privilege to be elected and that the people of Montgomeryshire have chosen me to represent them in the Welsh Assembly.

"We have some real issues in Montgomeryshire at the moment especially over the National Grid proposals,which involve pylons and a substation being built in Mid Wales, and I will not let my constituents down.

Thank

"In the next few months I know hundreds of Montgomeryshire residents plan to march on the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff to make sure their views are listened too and I will be fully behind them.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank my supporters, family and everyone who has been involved in the campaign."

In second place was Welsh Liberal Democrat Wyn Williams who polled 7,702 votes, Labour's Nick Colbourne polled 2,609 votes and Plaid Cymru's David Senior polled 2,596.

And even though turnout of voters in Montgomeryshire was 47.6 per cent, compared to 46.1 per cent in the last Assembly election in 2007, candidates said they were disappointed with the figure.

Mr George said: "It was slightly better than I expected but it could have been better because the Welsh Assembly plays such an important role."

Adding it up

- Turnout for Montgomeryshire was 22,933 (47.6 per cent) compared with 22,300 (46.1 per cent) in the 2007 election.
- Seventy-three per cent of the 6,145 postal votes sent out to constituents were returned.
- Number of votes: Conservative Russell George – 10,026; Liberal Democrat Wyn Williams – 7,702; Labour Nick Colbourne – 2,609; Plaid Cymru David Senior – 2,596. Majority – 2,324.

Returning officer Jeremy Patterson, front, announcing the result, with from left, Wyn Williams, Welsh Liberal Democrats, David Senior, Plaid Cymru, Nick Colbourne Labour and Co-Operative party and Russell George, Welsh Conservative party

The new AM for Montgomeryshire Russell George giving his acceptance speech

Wyn Williams, candidate for the Welsh Liberal Democrats

NEWS in brief

Police on road to discover views

POLICE OFFICERS are to meet with Mid Wales residents in a bid to find out what the public feel their priorities should be for the next year.

Officers are set to hold a series of drop-in surgeries as part of a summer tour of Welshpool, Llanfair Caereinion and Llanfyllin. They aim to discover the issues that matter to local people and what can be done to tackle them.

Antony Topazio, force spokesman, said: "As part of its commitment to listening to the needs of local communities, Welshpool Police's neighbourhood management team has announced its summer tour.

"These meetings will help the team decide the next set of priorities based on the feedback.

"If members of the local community would like to get involved, or raise an issue that concerns them, please call the Welshpool Neighbourhood Management Team on 101."

A list of the meetings can be found at *www.dyfed-powys.police.uk*

Events put the focus on charity

EVENTS are being held in Oswestry to help raise awareness for a charity.

A Christian Aid service is being held at West Felton's church on Sunday from 6pm with service leader and preacher Sally Bossinham, from the charity.

People are also invited to help raise cash for Christian Aid by visiting Oak Drive for refreshments.

The event will take place on Saturday from 10am until 12pm.

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SCRATCHCARDS. THE instant way of finding out if your lucky pants work or not.

Yup, life can be a lottery, and, clutching a batch of freshly purchased scratchcards on Laburnum Drive, Mark Jones begins the regular task of hedging his bets.

"I usually have £10 to £15 worth a day and I usually break even," says Mark, scratching away in hope outside the shop.

Is he a lucky person?

"Not really," he says. "I won £250 a couple of times and that feels great.

"But it tends to work out about even."

Which, you would think, is luckier than most who flutter in hope.

The shop itself is called Top Shop, although dedicated followers of fashion shouldn't get their hopes up either.

"It's not the same as 'Top Shop' - we don't sell clothes if you are looking for clothes!" says Jas Singh who runs the popular newsagents and grocers.

The morning rush sees schoolkids stock up on sweets and a group of elderly folk who help out sorting the papers for the paperboys.

Laburnum Drive runs along the length of a levee and a millennium garden space. As well as the shop, there's a church and evidence that romance is alive, if a small piece of graffiti to the side of the building is to be believed.

From her shop window, Jas sees "quite a lot of weddings and quite a lot of funerals". And quite a lot of mystery.

Are you feeling lucky? Mark Jones

Shopkeeper Jas Singh has an early morning smile for her customers

Customer Renata Turner

Quite quiet – Fred Brough

David Bonner digs in

"There is a group of senior citizens and they take them on mystery tours," explains Jas.

Where to? Daft question. "I don't know, it's a mystery," says Jas. "They come in for refreshments for their surprise day out."

Renata Turner has lived in Laburnum Drive for 39 years.

"It's quite quiet," she says, "we haven't had a party in the last month!"

Venturing into the shop, she asks Jas: "Where's my husband?" - in jocular reference to Jas's husband, a man who tells her all about India.

"I've never been but it sounds lovely," says Renata, who originally hails from Germany but met her husband, Robert, of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, while he was serving in the military over there in the early 1960s.

"You know what women are like with uniform!" says Renata.

"I was waiting for a German boy and he didn't turn up, and we got talking." And, in the game of chance, they all lived happily ever after on Laburnum Drive.

Top Shop, but not as you know it . . .

All quiet in Laburnum Drive, Oswestry

Although things have changed somewhat, apparently.

"We used to talk over the garden fence, but it's not the same," adds Renata. "You did not have to lock your door in those days."

Suddenly the scene appears to transgress into a crash course in speaking German. I suspect a bang on the head, but there is a plausible explanation

"Eine tasse kaffee, bitte," says Renata to Jas who also speaks the lingo having spent time in Germany.

On the street, Fred Brough has few complaints about life in these parts. But if pressed . . . well, the noise at night sometimes. He could live without that.

"Singing and dancing," he says. "Some lads with a car - boom, boom, boom . . . it's not music.

"Apart from that it's quite quiet."

Fred, born Albert but whose moniker was clipped at school, moved with his wife to the area from a bungalow in Whittington.

"The missus couldn't get used to it - it was too small," says Fred in reference to the bungalow, not Whittington.

One thing's for sure. For an 80-year-old, he appears hale and hearty and his fettle doesn't look too bad either.

Fred puts it down to hard work.

"I worked until I was 76 for Shropshire Galvanise," he says. "If I could get a jot now I would do it."

But there's plenty to be getting on with. These days people are often busier in retirement and

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Tourism in the Oswestry and north Powys border area could be boosted this summer by a new initiative.

A heritage trail featuring 15 churches and chapels dotted along three river valleys converging on the Shropshire border near Oswestry, was launched a year ago but now organisers are hoping to encourage visitors to look beyond its historic buildings by providing additional information on their local communities.

Organisers hope it will help fill the gaps left by the closure of some tourist information offices.

John Hainsworth, of the Heritage Trail Steering Group, said: "When Meini Bywiol, the Living Stones Trail in North Montgomeryshire was launched in May last year, one of its aims was to encourage more people to appreciate our rich heritage of buildings.

"Another was to bring more visitors to enjoy the beauty of our countryside and to make use of the amenities and facilities provided by local enterprises.

"This year a fresh initiative is helping to make these better known. Each of the 15 historic churches and chapels along the three trails through the Tanat, Cain and Vyrnwy Valleys has received a 'tourism tile', a large folder containing details about the local community.

"These include information on other local attractions - walks, pubs, hotels, B & Bs, cottages, caravan sites, restaurants and shops,

Push to stop axe as trees reveal beauty

Heather Jones, from Pickles and Co, with the blossoming trees in Festival Square, Oswestry. *Picture: Peter Flemmich*

by Graham Breeze

CAMPAIGNERS ARE hoping that Oswestry's cherry trees have not flowered for the last time.

The axe is still hanging over the group of cherry trees which line the town's Festival Square and car park. But campaigners fighting to save them hope that the sight of the trees at their best might persuade Shropshire Council to think again about chopping them down.

Last year Shirehall officers gave approval for the nine trees to be felled after councillors heard they were posing a health and safety problem. Officers said the tree roots were causing the iron grids to lift in the street and some surrounding paving slabs to buckle up.

Affection

The councillors agreed that the cherry trees would be replaced by new trees, a variety called Golden Rain. But months later the trees are still standing.

A campaign to keep the trees was launched by local businesses and students in the town.

More than 50 protesters took part in a "hug-a-tree" day and the trees even found themselves with their own Facebook page.

Jools Payne, one of the business people who began the campaign, said: "The sight of the cherry trees in full bloom has shown just what an asset they are to Oswestry.

"We have contacted the council to find out what the situation is about the trees but have heard nothing from them.

"There is huge affection for these trees and many folks are highly sceptical of the council's argument that they are in such decline they wouldn't tolerate other methods to manage the problematic roots."

Fellow campaigner Rob Evans said: "Why can't the trees have a circular bench placed around each of them?

"It would cost far less to do this than remove the trees, roots and repave the area."

A spokesman for Shropshire Council said no decision had yet been taken on when the trees might be felled.

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Push to help feed hard-up residents

A TEAM OF trustees has been formed to introduce a new service to help feed poverty-hit residents in Oswestry who are suffering in the current economic climate.

Churchgoers across the town are getting together to help supply people in financial difficulty with food for three days in the form of a food bank. Churches Together Oswestry District group has teamed up with charity, Trussell Trust, to create the service.

There are four trustees to help push the project forward, who are now touring churches in the area to gather more support.

An information evening has been organised for today (Thursday) to get more churchgoers involved. The meeting will be held at St Oswald's Church in Oswestry from 7.30pm until 9pm.

The food bank scheme has had a £5,000 donation to help with an application for charitable status. There are around 100 Trussell Trust food banks across the country. When the Oswestry service is launched, shoppers will be asked to add an extra item to donate to the bank.

Gillian Richards, co-ordinator of the food bank, said: "We have now got a very good team of trustees. It's moving along very nicely.

"We have not opened the bank yet as we are still in negotiations over a property."

Chris Mould, director of the Trussell Trust, said 13 million people live below the poverty line with some parents skipping meals to feed their children.

Chamber chief's call over singing praises of town

by Graham Breeze

THE NEW chairman of Oswestry's Chamber of Commerce has said the town should do more to shout about its wonderful countryside – including its Iron Age hill fort.

Martin Anderson said that when he arrived in the area he was amazed at just how much Oswestry had to offer those shopping in and visiting the town.

But he said those who were from the area didn't appreciate just how good a tourist and visitor attraction it was.

Mr Anderson had been asked by members of Oswestry Town Council to name areas in which Oswestry could improve its own promotion.

"We have a range of independent shops that astonishes me," he said.

"Visitors to the town tell me that they love coming here to shop because it is so different from other towns, with not only shops you will not see elsewhere, but also a really good cafe culture."

Mr Anderson, who took over as chairman of the chamber last month, said Oswestry's countryside was also a major tourist "offer".

"Oswestry has what is reputed to be one of the largest, intact hill forts in Europe – but does anyone know about it?

"We need to encourage people to come to Oswestry to visit the hill fort."

He said the hill fort was just one aspect of the physical environment that needed to be promoted more.

"Oswestry is such a good place for walking or for cycling or for just seeing the wonderful countryside.

"I think because we live here in among the beauty, we really do not realise just how good it is," he added.

Each year Oswestry plays host to a programme of activities centred around the hill fort and it also features in Oswestry's heritage open days held in September.

Spotlight on fitness

SHROPSHIRE Council is setting up a steering group for Active Oswestry.

The initiative is a new way of partnership working to encourage the people of Oswestry to be more physically active.

As well as sports clubs and gyms, this will include health professionals and may even influence planning decisions. If you would like to join the steering group, please contact Valerie Chambers on (01743) 252303.

Charity store's appeal for helpers

THE AGE UK shop, in Bailey Street, Oswestry, is appealing for more volunteers. They are looking for more help in the shop on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Anyone wanting to help out can call the shop on (01691) 679 665. They also are appealing for donations of stock. Volunteer Katie Stelfox, left, with shop manager Sandra Griffiths. *Picture: Ian Sheppard*

NEWS in brief

Rotarian receives award for work

AN OSWESTRY Rotarian has been awarded a fellowship for his "outstanding contribution" to organising a district disabled games.

David Towers received the Paul Harris Fellowship Sapphire Award from Rotary's 1180 District Governor, Gwyn Dryhurst-Dodd at The Walls Restaurant last week.

Mr Towers has helped organise the games for the last 10 years at The Bank of America campus at Chester, attracting over 300 participants with many different types of disability for a day of fun.

He led the team at the first event and has seen it grow to its current size.

"I feel very privileged to receive this award but feel that it is really targeted at the whole organising team that has supported this event over the years," he said.

Hopes cemetery will be extended

A VILLAGE near Oswestry looks likely to get an extension to its burial ground.

The cemetery, in Daisy Lane, Whittington, is now full and the Parochial Church Council was about to start proceedings to close it.

But the owner of land next to the cemetery is now in negotiations with Whittington Parish Council and planning permission has been given to change the use of the land.

Councillor Steve Charmley said talks were still continuing, but he said he was hopeful that an extension to the burial ground could now go ahead.

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Night taxi scheme extended in town

A TRIAL SCHEME which helped revellers in Oswestry get home safely is to be extended.

The night-time taxi marshalling scheme has been granted funding to continue until the end of the year.

Shropshire Council says the scheme – which has also been piloted in Shrewsbury – has been a massive success.

It has now secured cash from the Shropshire Partnership to enable the pilot projects to carry on until December.

Marshals offer assistance to customers and provide a safe environment for people waiting for taxis.

Praised

The Oswestry scheme operated throughout December 2010 and the new year period outside of The Wilfred Owen Public House in Willow Street. It will now start again at the end of May.

West Mercia Police have given their support to both schemes.

Licence holders of nearby late night entertainment venues have also praised the schemes, saying the marshals have helped people leave the town centre more quickly.

Councillor Cecilia Motley, Shropshire Council Cabinet member responsible for licensing, said: "These schemes have been a great success and I'm delighted they will now continue for the rest of the year.

"We have had really positive feedback from both business owners and customers about how the marshals improve public safety, which can only help the night-time economy."

Marshals will work on the taxi ranks in Claremont Bank, Shrewsbury, and Willow Street, Oswestry, from 12.30am until 3.30am on Saturday and Sunday mornings up until the end of December 2011.

Nothing paltry at show

THE OSWESTRY and District Poultry Society held their Spring Show at the Oswestry Showground on Saturday. There were over 500 entries from around the country competing for a number of prizes. Graham Hicks, from Selattyn, with his Black Muscovy bird which was one of three judged to be best trio at the show. ***Picture: Ian Sheppard***

Putting pen to paper

A NEW creative writing group for adults is to be launched in Ellesmere.

Aimed at providing a monthly informal gathering for those who enjoy writing, the group will meet at the town's library with the inaugural meeting at 7pm on May 26.

For details telephone (01691) 677388.

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AN OSWESTRY man attacked another man in his front garden after a row involving a disabled girl, a court has heard.

Todd Curley, 25, of Meadow Rise, Oswestry, admitted causing actual bodily harm after attacking Mark Cheyney in his front garden on August 18 last year. Elliot Curley, 23, his brother, of the same address, pleaded guilty to affray at Shrewsbury Crown Court.

The court heard Mr Cheyney was punched in the face by Todd Curley, who then bit the victim.

The court was also told Elliot Curley kicked Mr Cheyney while he was on the ground.

The assault happened in the garden of Mr Cheyney's home at Old Fort Road in Oswestry said Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting.

He said the brothers had acted together in the attack at the home Mr Cheyney shared with his partner Joanne O'Hara and their children.

During the two-day hearing Elliot Curley alleged Miss O'Hara had made unpleasant comments about his disabled sister.

Mr Jones told the jury there were a series of abusive text messages between Mr Cheyney and Todd Curley before the brothers visited the victim's home and assaulted him.

The pair will be sentenced on June 10.

Both were bailed and told to have no contact with Mr Cheyney or Miss O'Hara.

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by Graham Breeze

PUPILS AT St Martins' Rhyn Park School are opening their classrooms up to protesters against plans to merge their secondary school with the village primary school.

They have been so upset by criticism of an all-through-school for St Martins that they have persuaded teachers to allow them to run an open evening on Monday when they say they will talk to visitors to allay fears about a school for children aged three to 16.

This week plans to create an all-through school at St Martins were put on hold by education bosses so that more talks can go ahead. The plan would see Ifton Heath Primary School shut and relocate to the Rhyn Park site as part of a major reorganisation of education in the county.

x-head

But Shirehall bosses admitted the scheme still needed more work before any final decision could be taken and deferred the plans to a meeting on July 20.

Councillors warned that without change the future of Rhyn Park school was uncertain.

The plan has split the village with many parents of infant and junior school teachers saying they want to keep the primary school at Ifton Heath.

But pupils at Rhyn Park, Lauren Haughton and Lauren Jones, 15, said an all-through school would benefit the whole community and urged anyone worried to go along to the open evening.

They said many fears would be allayed by staggering break and lunchtimes for the different age ranges.

"The open evening is an invitation to other students and parents to chat about what it is like at Rhyn Park," they said.

The evening, which will start at 6pm, will begin with a presentation and then be followed by smaller around-the-table talks with the year 10 pupils.

Lauren Haughton said: "This is our school and we are proud of it and of its success.

The younger children could share in that success and having younger children here would benefit the older students and encourage more responsibility."

The year 10 pupils have already had discussions on how an all-through-school could work and have sug-

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THE ROTARY Club of Oswestry played host to a team from Brazil at a well attended meeting at The Walls.

Over 80 people, representing not only the host club but also many clubs from the surrounding area and their guests, attended to meet members of The Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team.

The four young professionals and a rotarian leader all from Rotary District 4720 (The Amazon of Brazil) were at the start of their visit to the UK.

David Foden, president of the Rotary Club of Oswestry, said: "It has been a great privilege to host this event and the GSE team's presentation tonight has given us all insight into the very different environment of the Amazon basin."

GSE is one of several programmes run by The Rotary Foundation (Rotary's own charity) to foster international understanding and most Rotary districts worldwide participate.

NEWS in brief

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TWO AGRICULTURAL apprentices from Walford and North Shropshire College have been awarded a highly commended certificate by the Morville Countryside Club.

The students, Adam Eccleston from Selattyn and Nick Kynaston from West Felton, finished fourth in the beginners class at the club's charity ploughing match at Upton Park Farm.

Adam was the driver of the tractor and Nick assisted with technical advice and the marking out of the plot.

The two were under the watchful eye of John Gough, agricultural engineering lecturer at the Walford Campus and the owner of the two-furrow conventional plough that was used in the match.

Their placement officer, Jim Mundy-Gill said: "I'm extremely proud of them. They have both had little ploughing experience and only had a single day to practice with the kit at

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A CHEESE AND wine evening will take place on May 14 in Llanfechain.

The event will be held at Llanfechain Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Mark Hall, vice chairman of the Midlands National Vegetable Society, horticulturist, lecturer and national judge, will speak.

Tickets are £5, to include a glass of wine and supper, and will be available in Llanfechain Community Shop or by calling (01691) 828077 or (01691) 828394. Proceeds go to Llanfechain Show.

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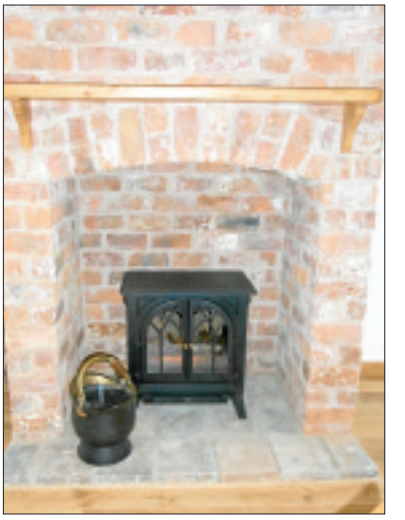
Impressive barn conversion in tranquil country setting



THIS week's feature property is a beautiful courtyard style three-bedroom barn conversion in the rural surroundings of Dudleston, near Ellesmere.

Barn Three at Dudleston Hall Barns has been converted to a high quality finish and specification with many original features kept and large enclosed rear gardens created, making it a lovely setting in which to raise a family or to escape to the countryside.

There is an entrance hall, guest cloakroom fitted with modern wash hand basin and low-flush wc, and a study with beamed and panelled walls, a fitted work surface and an external door.

Solid timber

The lounge has a solid timber finished floor and a feature brick built fireplace with electric stove.

An open plan approach leads to the kitchen/diner, which has a tiled floor and is fitted with solid timber floor and wall units, a Belfast sink, recess for a range cooker, and inset ceiling spotlights. The utility has additional fitted cupboards and work surfaces.

A staircase rises from the entrance hall to the split landing area, from which the rest of the accommodation is accessed.

The master bedroom and second bedroom each have an ensuite shower room with modern fittings, while bedroom three has access to a Jack and Jill bathroom, which also has a door to the split level landing area.

Barn 3, Dudleston Hall Barns, near Ellesmere

Double glazing is fitted throughout the property and it is warmed by 'air-source' central heating, through radiators on the first floor and under floor on the ground floor. The development has septic tank drainage.

Courtyard

Outside, a communal drive leads to the large gravelled courtyard at the front with ample parking, while a second driveway leads to a range of timber store sheds at the rear of the development.

The generous rear garden has been laid to lawn with a number of young trees at the top end screening the rear right of way.

The property is on the market with **MORRIS MARSHALL & POOLE** with a guide price of £295,000. Contact the Oswestry office on 01691 679595 to obtain further information or to arrange a viewing.

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Caetwm, Old Chirk Road, Gobowen

Well presented bungalow set on a large private plot

A SPACIOUS detached bungalow on a large private plot in the village of Gobowen is presented to an extremely high standard.

Caetwm, Old Chirk Road, has an entrance hallway, lounge, conservatory, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear conservatory offering views over the garden, rear lean-to, utility, WC, and door to double garage.

The property also has double glazing and gas central heating.

Outside is a long driveway leading to the property and a parking area and double garage.

At the front there is a delightful garden laid to lawn with borders with a variety of trees, plants and shrubs. The garden extends around the side where there is gated access to the private rear garden.

On the other side a large gate opens onto a further area with a greenhouse. A gate at this side gives access to the vegetable plot, summerhouse and a further gate giving access to a large private garden laid to lawn with a variety of trees, and plants.

The property is in Gobowen, which offers local amenities, a bus stop within walking distance and a train station with rail links to Wrexham, Chester and Shrewsbury and further afield to locations like Birmingham or London. The market town of Oswestry is approximately 2.5 miles away where there are a wider range of shopping and leisure facilities and schools for all ages.

Caetwm, Old Chirk Road, Gobowen, is on the market for £235,000. Call **NORMAN LLOYD** for more information on 01691 653243.

Revamped home with lots of room

THIS home is a deceptively spacious detached bungalow renovated throughout to an exceptionally high standard, in its own grounds in the popular village of Whittington.

Whittington has three pubs, a church, shops, an excellent primary school, a historic castle and moat, and it has a regular bus service to Oswestry.

21 Boot Street, Whittington, Oswestry, is a modern detached bungalow set behind its own private gardens. The property has been fully renovated including re-wiring, re-plumbing, and a central heating system.

Accommodation includes entrance hall, open plan sitting room, dining room, study area, modern fitted breakfast kitchen, utility room, three well appointed bedrooms, two of which are ensuite together with an excellent guest shower room, and a further double bedroom.

The fully fitted modern kitchen has granite work surfaces, recessed ceramic Kuppersbusch hob with extractor unit above, making this a highly desirable and comfortable property.

There is gas fired central heating throughout, except in the utility room.

The entire property has a pleasant light aspect to the front with patio doors to the rear garden.

There are gardens at the front and back with glazed porch and sitting area, andample car parking.

21 Boot Street, is on the market for offers in the region of £345,000. Call **PARRY LOWARCH** on 01743 343343.

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Upper Gro, Trehelig, near Welshpool

Rural retreat nestles off the beaten track

A CHARMING character cottage with a wealth of oak beams and handmade doors is on the market with McCartneys.

Upper Gro, in the village of Trehelig, is tucked away in a peaceful spot off the beaten track yet is just a five-minute drive from Welshpool.

Tastefully extended and part double glazed, the property stands in grounds of about 1.5 acres. The accommodation includes two large reception rooms, kitchen, utility, two double bedrooms, bathroom and ensuite shower room.

There are rural views right around the property, and the original cow sheds and pigsties have been retained. At the end of the dead end track, the location is extremely tranquil and a haven for wildlife, making it ideal for those wanting complete peace and quiet but with amenities close to hand.

The property is for sale with a guide price of £250,000. To view, call **McCARTNEYS** at Newtown on 01686 623123.

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NEW

DAMSON FAYRE

This immaculately appointed, modern 3-bedroom end of terraced house, is situated within easy walking distance of Market Drayton town centre and close to good road networks. The spacious accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, living room, open plan kitchen/breakfast room with built-in oven & hob, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens. The property benefits from GCH, allocated parking & garage. Available beginning of June 2011.

SHREWSBURY £650 pcm

WOODHALL CLOSE, SEVERN MEADOWS

This newly decorated and well-appointed 3-bedroom semi-detached house, is situated within a quiet cul-de-sac position, close to good schools, good road networks and the town centre. Entrance porch, living room, newly fitted kitchen/dining area with built-in oven & hob, utility and downstairs cloak-room, 3 bedrooms, newly fitted bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens. The property benefits from GCH, garage & driveway. Available Mid May

SHREWSBURY £750 pcm

NEW

PERCY STREET, GREENFIELDS

This spacious and well appointed 3-bedroom detached family house , is situated within easy walking distance of the town centre and Shrewsbury train station. The accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen with cooker, downstairs cloak room, outhouse, 3 bedrooms, newly fitted bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from easy to maintain gardens, off street parking with a garage, GCH and original features throughout. Available end of May 2011.

SHREWSBURY £475 pcm

SANDYGATE AVENUE, THE FARTHINGS

This exceptionally well-appointed 1-bedroom ground floor apartment, is situated within a quiet and well-sought after residential area, close to good road networks and local amenities. Entrance hall, living room, newly fitted kitchen with built-in oven & hob, double bedroom, and bathroom. The property benefits from driveway, garage, garden and GCH. Available Mid May.

SHREWSBURY £515 pcm

BELGRAVIA COURT, ABBEY FOREGATE

This exceptionally well-appointed and stylish 1-bedroom third floor loft style apartment, located within easy walking distance of the town centre. Security intercom entry system, entrance hall, open plan living room and kitchen with built-in oven & hob, washer dryer and fridge, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, bathroom with shower and electric heating. Allocated parking and well maintained communal gardens. Available 25th May 2011

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This spacious and newly decorated and carpeted 3 bedroom semi detached house within easy walking distance of the town centre and train station. Entrance hall, living room, open plan dining room and kitchen with built-in oven and hob, cellar, three good sized bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property benefits from gas central heating and easy to maintain gardens. Available NOW

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Wem

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- Parking ▪Rent stated is for each

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Shrewsbury

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- Terrace garden ▪River views
- Study ▪Storage area ▪Parking for 2 cars

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Betton Strange Hall

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- Parking ▪Communal gardens

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- Garden ▪ Parking for two cars

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- Gardens ▪Double garage

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Shrewsbury

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- Garage ▪Two parking spaces

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4 Ffynnon Gardens, Oswestry

Modern semi has no onward chain

THIS attractive semi-detached bungalow is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac close to Oswestry town centre.

Number 4 Ffynnon Gardens is situated within walking distance of the medical centre, and Oswestry town centre with its wide range of shopping, leisure and employment opportunities.

The property has double glazing and is warmed by gas-fired central heating. It also has the benefit of no upward chain.

Inside, the accommodation is beautifully presented throughout and comprises an entrance hallway, lounge with bay window to the front and an Adams fire surround with marble hearth housing living flame gas fire, kitchen, two bedrooms and a shower room. The kitchen is fitted with a wall mounted Ideal boiler, an integrated Electrolux electric oven with gas hob and extractor over, an integral fridge and plumbing for a washing machine.

Good-sized garden

Outside to the front of the property is a large block paved driveway offering ample off-road parking with double wooden gates opening onto the side where the driveway continues to the garage.

The good-sized rear garden has a patio area and is low maintenance, and is not overlooked.

The property is on the market with a guide price of £154,950. Call **NORMAN LLOYD & CO** on 01691 653243 for more information.

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Smart family home in quiet cul-de-sac

FAMILIES looking for a comfortable home in a quiet location in Oswestry could find what they are looking for at 17 High Lea Close.

This well appointed detached family home occupies a quiet cul-de-sac position a convenient distance from the town's shopping centre. The property is a traditionally built home which was constructed in the 1970s.

Accommodation comprises a reception hall, cloakroom, lounge with patio doors opening out on to the rear garden, dining room, uPVC double glazed conservatory which also has access to the garden, kitchen, and utility with plumbing for a washing machine and freezer space.

Upstairs are the three bedrooms, bathroom and a separate wc.

Outside there is a pleasant front lawned garden with double tarmacadam driveway with space for a caravan or parking for two cars. A secondary driveway leads to a detached garage.

Stream

There is access at both sides of the house to a well maintained lawn garden at the rear of the property. which has a tall hedge, paved patio overlooking an adjoining wooded area, and a terraced garden leading down to a stream.

The home benefits from oil-fired central heating and double glazing.

The property is available for £195,000. Contact selling agents **JJ DELL** on 01691 653437 for more details or to arrange a viewing.

17 High Lea Close, Oswestry

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NEW
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- Attractive semi-detached two bedroom house
- Gas fired central heating, double glazing
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LULLINGFIELDS, 25 RODEN GROVE, WEM
- An Attractive, Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow
- Gas fired central heating
- uPVC replacement double glazed windows
- Garage and garden

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NEW
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- An Attractive, Modern, Terraced Two Bedroom House
- Gas fired central heating
- Double glazing
- Two parking spaces and pleasant garden

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- An attractive, three bedroom detached house
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- Leaded light double glazed windows
- Garage, attached carport
- Pleasant garden

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16 MARLCROFT, WEM
- An attractive detached two bedroom bungalow
- uPVC double glazed windows
- Gas fired central heating
- Garage and garden

£190,000

48 PYMS ROAD, WEM
- An attractive semi-detached two bedroom bungalow
- Gas fired central heating
- uPVC replacement double glazed windows
- Garage, large wooden second garage/workshop
- Large garden with lawn and paved patio

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23b ASTON STREET, WEM, SY4 5AY
- An Executive Style, Well Appointed, Four Bedroom detached house with the benefit of:
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- The plot is excellently situated in the small rural hamlet of Barkers Green which is surround by delightful North Shropshire Countryside and some three miles from the town of Wem. It has a road frontage, 110ft & 200ft to Weir Lane and extends to approx. 35 of an acre.

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DUNROMIN, CHURCH LANE, WEM
- An Impressive, well appointed, four bedroom detached house with the benefit of:
- Replacement uPVC double glazed windows.
- Gas fired central heating
- Garage Well kept Garden

£325,000

BROCK COTTAGE, 32 PRESTON BROCKHURST, NR. SHREWSBURY
- A charming, detached, grade 11, three bedroom, period cottage with a wealth of character including:
- Timber construction
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55 PRESTON, BROCKHURST, SHREWSBURY
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- Excellent views front and rear over the surrounding countryside

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MARLCROFT, WEM
- A most attractive, spacious, well appointed three bedroom detached bungalow
- Replacement uPVC DG windows.
- Gas fired central heating
- Garage Large delightful well kept gardens

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Church Lodge, Leighton

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- Inner Hallway, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Attic Room
- OUTSIDE - Attractive Gardens, Outbuilding, Garage
- Oil Central Heating, No Upward Chain

Contact Welshpool **Price: £200,000**

28 Swallows Meadow, Castle Caereinion

A detached two bedroom bungalow situated at the end off a cul-de-sac with pleasant far reaching views over the surrounding countryside

- Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge/Diner
- Inner Hallway, Master Bedroom, Bedroom 2, Bathroom
- OUTSIDE - Attached Garage, Gardens to Front, Side and Rear
- Double Glazing, Oil Fired Central Heating
- No Upward Chain

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Contact Welshpool **Price: £[illegible]**

52 Oldcastle Avenue, Guilsfield

An immaculately presented 3 bedroom modern detached bungalow, which has been recently redecorated internally and externally, situated in a popular village location

- Entrance Hall, Reception Hall
- Lounge, Kitchen, Breakfast Room
- Bedroom 1 with en suite Shower Room, 2 Further Bedrooms, Bathroom
- OUTSIDE - Parking, Single Attached Garage, Adjacent Utility Room and Gardens to front and rear with attractive countryside views

Contact Welshpool **Price: £225,000**

Hafod Y Rhiw, Dolanog

A delightful, detached, single storey bungalow style mill house in an elevated position providing glorious views over the surrounding countryside

- Entrance Hall, Dining Hall
- 3 Bedrooms, Inner Hallway, Bedroom 4/Study, Family Shower Room
- Sitting Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Side Hall, Utility, Side/Front Conservatory
- OUTSIDE - Adjoining Double Garage, Ample Parking and Turning Area, Generous Gardens, Additional Area off Land

Contact Welshpool **Price: £[illegible]**

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Spacious bungalow has great potential

Ger-Y-Coed, Pont Robert, Meifod

THIS beautifully situated traditional detached bungalow overlooks the village of Pont Robert.

Ger-Y-Coed, Pont Robert, Meifod, is a traditional detached bungalow set on a generous plot with views of open countryside.

The property has mainly double-glazed windows and oil central heating but is in need of slight refurbishment.

Accommodation comprises an entrance porch, hallway, spacious lounge/diner with stone fireplace, three bedrooms, a bathrooms fitted with a walk-in Triton electric shower, separate wc, and rear porch with a door leading to the rear garden.

The kitchen would benefit from modernisation but at the moment consists of a base unit with single drainer sink, radiator, vinyl flooring, pantry and space for an electric cooker.

Outside, double gates open onto the large driveway leading to the double garage.

To the rear is a private enclosed garden laid to lawn with borders with a variety of trees, plants and shrubs and to the front there are outstanding views over the village below and open countryside.

There is a double garage, large driveway and well maintained lawned gardens with outstanding views over the village and countryside beyond.

Ger-Y-Coed is on the market with **NORMAN LLOYD & CO** for £189,000 with no onward chain. Call 01691 653243 for more details.

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Grade II farmhouse ripe for renovation

THIS farmhouse with its agricultural buildings and attached land is set on the outskirts of the village of Trefonen.

Pentre Issa, Trefonen, Oswestry, is comprised of two lots. The first comprises the farmhouse together with garden and one range of the traditional agricultural buildings and a grass paddock, in about 2.5 acres, while Lot 2 comprises one range of the traditional agricultural buildings, in all approximately 0.3 acres, for which planning consent has been applied for conversion into a single residential unit.

The Grade II* listed traditional timber framed farmhouse dates back to the 15th century with later extensions, and has views over the surrounding farm land and beyond.

The farmhouse is in need of total renovation and refurbishment throughout, although it retains a wealth of original features. The accommodation comprises a living room, dining room, kitchen, three double bedrooms, one with a dressing room, and further attic space suitable for conversion. There are mature gardens, a garage and former piggery.

Pentre Issa, Trefonen, near Oswestry

The Grade II listed agricultural buildings date back to the late 16th century with 18th century modifications and comprise an L-shaped range with areas of both double and single storey.

The northern range of the buildings is comprised within Lot 1 and offers potential for additional residential accommodation.

The eastern range comprises Lot 2 and planning consent has been applied for to convert it into a self-contained three-bedroom home.

The property is available for offers around £350,000. Call **PARRY LOWARCH** on 01743 343343.

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COURTYARD COTTAGE, LOWER BOTVYLE, NEAR ALL STRETTON

Appealing two bedroomed cottage featuring exposed beams. Courtyard setting in a lovely rural location at foot of Caradoc, close to footpaths over surrounding hills and approx 2 miles Church Stretton. Hall, cloakroom, kitchen/dining room, sitting room with cast iron multi-fuel stove, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, LPG c.h., small outside sitting area, 2 parking spaces.

Offers around £139,950

JINLYE, CASTLE HILL, ALL STRETTON

Exceptional, very spacious and characterful country property. Extraordinary location commanding spectacular views, adjacent to National Trust managed moorland on the Longmynd. Immediate access to miles of footpaths and bridleways through the South Shropshire Hills. Last used for award winning Bed and Breakfast but also a wonderful family home or ideal for those with dependent relative or wishing to live and work from home. Three superb reception rooms plus conservatory, snug, kitchen, laundry etc. Eight bedrooms, seven en-suite plus one private bathroom. Wonderful gardens, garaging, parking and paddock, in all about 3 acres (further land may be available by negotiation). 2 miles Church Stretton, 12 miles Shrewsbury and 11 miles A5 dual carriageway link to M54

Offers around £750,000

HONEYSUCKLE COTTAGE, 10, FRODESLEY NEAR ACTON BURNELL

Spacious and characterful house located in this delightful hamlet about 8 miles from Shrewsbury and A5 dual carriageway link to M54. Hall, sitting room, dining room, lounge/study, kitchen, utility, cloakroom with shower, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, LPG central heating, double glazing, garage, attractive and extensive garden together with established orchard.

Offers around £375,000

THE MANOR, HOPE BOWDLER, CHURCH STRETTON

Impressive Period style home in South Shropshire Hills village within one mile of Church Stretton and amidst glorious countryside. Reception hall with galleried landing above, cloakroom with shower, superb drawing room, galleried study/occasional bedroom, dining room, open plan breakfast/kitchen, utility, 3 bedrooms (formerly four but two have been combined), bathroom. Wealth of exposed beams, oil fired c.h., double glazing. Attractive garden intersected by stream.

Offers around £365,000

ORCHARD COTTAGE, LITTLE STRETTON

Deceptively spacious character home in this pretty village close to Ashes Hollow and enjoying views to Ragleth Hill. Versatile layout with potential for B and B use, living and working from home or creation of ground floor annexe. Sitting room with stone fireplace, breakfast room, kitchen, dining room with ensuite level access shower room, conservatory, 5 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, LPG CH, garage, main garden plus additional off-lying garden area

Price: £350,000

3 CHAPEL CLOSE, BOMERE HEATH, SHREWSBURY

Refurbished detached bungalow located in this popular village. Well presented accommodation has been redecorated throughout, rewired and includes newly fitted kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and floor coverings. Entrance hall, sitting room, open-plan kitchen and dining room (20 0 long), 3 bedrooms, Bathroom, gas c.h., double glazing, garage and garden.

Offers around £210,000

WILSTONE COTTAGE, WILSTONE, CARDINGTON, CHURCH STRETTON

Superbly renovated cottage of great charm and character throughout, including exposed beams and feature fireplaces. Lovely rural setting close to the picturesque village of Cardington and enjoying extensive outlooks. Porch, hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility, shower room, useful cellar, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, c.h., double glazing, garage.

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Talks on survey to open streets

OSWESTRY CHAMBER Of Commerce will discuss carrying out a survey on reopening some of the town's pedestrianised streets.

Calls to reopen part of the town centre came from taxi driver Mark Higgins at last week's Oswestry Town Meeting.

He said that pedestrianisation had isolated both Cross Street and Bailey Street and wanted to see roads open again.

The council is suggesting that the Chamber of Commerce carry out a survey of the public to see if there is enough support to push for some of the pedestrianisation to be lifted.

Mr Higgins said: "Many parts of the town are suffering and I believe pedestrianisation is responsible. Pedestrianisation in Oswestry has failed.

"Cross Street was open to traffic for a time earlier this year when Beatrice Street was shut because of water works. It seemed to be much busier and vibrant then."

Councillor Saffron Rainey, from Oswestry Town Council, said pedestrianisation needed looking into. "There is no doubt that Cross Street has declined significantly. It is now probably the most blighted street in Oswestry.

"We also need to look at signposting to point visitors to the shopping streets."

The chairman of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, Martin Anderson, said he would take the idea of a survey on pedestrianisation back to his members.

Bethan refused to give up her career dreams

FRESH OUT OF university the financial crisis could not have come at a worse time for Bethan Evans.

In fact it did its best to hamper her ambitious dreams just as she got started.

Her path into the legal profession was cut off almost at the knees with law firms across Britain feeling the pinch of the harsh economic climate.

Training schemes suddenly disappeared with companies forced to drop them to make savings while shedding jobs at a great rate of knots in 2009 and 2010.

For Bethan the situation was all the more difficult as she was so keen to move back home and train where she grew up.

Talented

After studying at Cardiff University she wanted to be back living in Meifod, a firm believer that small communities need talented young people to return home to ensure they continue to thrive.

Her options were becoming more limited with each day as she trawled every source she could think of to find the right position. She faced the difficult choice of possibly picking up a contract elsewhere in the country.

But Bethan was not one to shy away from any kind of competition or indeed a fight. Determined as she was to follow her chosen career path, she decided to regroup, add more tempting abilities and experiences to her CV and simply not give up.

She had attained her LLB (hons) at Cardiff University and completed her Legal Practice

Course at Cardiff Law School and she was just not going to "waste all those years" by accepting anything less than what she had wanted all along.

As the credit crunch started to bite, Bethan secured a job as a paralegal in a property department before a short stint indulging her passion for travel – back-packing around Australia and New Zealand for six weeks.

But all the time she kept the pressure on to find a suitable role where training would be available and her persistence eventually paid off with a position at Bennett's Legal in June 2010.

Fascinated by employment law, as well as company and commercial law, Bethan has been described by the Shrewsbury-based firm as "a bright prospect".

But most of all Bethan is delighted to have found a position in her home county which allows her to look for a permanent home where she grew up with her estate agent boyfriend.

"It's not easy for any graduate at the moment as many training schemes are suffering in industries across the board," said Bethan.

"It can add to the frustration when you want to settle in a particular area which is really what I wanted to do. I think it is important that young people get the chance to settle back in their home communities, particularly in rural areas, but also to be able to follow their career ambitions to the full.

"It is vital really that we encourage people with particular talents to invest in their community as much as possible. It is that which will help rural villages and towns to survive.

Worrying

"I have loved growing up in this area and can't think of anywhere I would rather live and work and to be given a chance to work in this area of law is such a privilege.

"Employment law has always fascinated me in terms of the relationship between the employer and employee, particularly now that the recession is having such an impact on jobs. It is now more than ever that employers need good advice on how to move forward and how to deal with relations with their staff day-to-day.

" I was very fortunate to get this position and just love my work and that I have so much to look forward to in terms of my development. I think that graduates will have to, for the forseeable future, be more determined in their search for the right opportunities and to do as much as they can in terms of improving their prospects. It is not easy and a worrying time for everyone.

"They should also not overlook returning to smaller communities to work."

She added: "It has certainly been worth the fight to secure this position and now I am here I aim to make the most of it."

Determined not to give up – Bethan Evans

Captains needed for quiz

A QUESTION OF SPORT event is being planned in Oswestry as a warm-up for next year's Olympic-style community games week.

Oswestrians are planning to hold their own community games in 2012 along with a culture festival in the same year the Olympics comes to Britain.

Today Shropshire Councillor Steve Charmley has revealed members of the steering group want to hold a sporting quiz in the next six to eight weeks before the main event in July next year.

He said the group was now looking for local celebrities and sport team captains to take part.

He said: "We want a '12-months-to-go' event held in Oswestry in about six to eight weeks time.

"We want team captains and sporting captains from Oswestry clubs to take part and make an event of it and get an audience in.

"We want it as a bit of fun to raise the profile of next year's community games."

The steering group is yet to find a venue for the event but hope to hold it in an Oswestry hotel. They are also looking for prizes to hand out on the night.

Bench scheme to be a tribute

CIVIC LEADERS in Welshpool have launched a memorial bench and seat scheme as a way for residents to remember their loved ones.

Welshpool Town Council said the initiative would allow people to donate a seat with a memorial plaque to the town.

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Builder puts focus on 'green' heating

A north Shropshire builder is inviting people to see an environmentally friendly heating system it is claimed will save up to 70 per cent on household bills.

Two properties by Sircar Builders Ltd have been built in Market Drayton with ground source heat pumps that are more commonly seen in homes in countries such as Norway and Sweden.

The technology saves on heating bills and the Government is planning to unveil a funding scheme for owners of homes with such pumps.

Running costs for the system should be about £300 to £350 a year based on maintaining a constant internal temperature of about 20oC (68F). The Government's Renewable Heat Incentive should equate to a yearly payment of about £750 to £1,000 which is set to run for a period of 20 years.

One of the two four bedroomed properties in Newcastle Road remains for sale at £298,500. People will be able to see the property at an open day on May 14 from 10am to 4pm.

Qualifying

A representative from Ice Energy will be available on the day to talk about the new heating system, solar PV and air source pumps.

Phil Sheldon, of Ice Energy, which has supplied the systems to Sircar Builders, said: "The Government figures are likely to be between £750 to £1,000 a year funding from the Government for the average three bedroomed home for ground source heat pumps.

This is set to be paid every year for 20 years, for all qualifying heat pumps."

The systems have cost Sircar about £15,000 each, which it has included as an incentive to buyers, rather than adding to the asking price.

This 4 Bedroomed detached house with double garage, comprises of two bathrooms, entrance hall with oak flooring, kitchen, breakfast room, granite worktops to the kitchen, with oak flooring to breakfast room, large utility, downstairs WC, fully carpeted throughout.

Neil Owen at The Old Furbers Yard, housing development in Market Drayton, where ground source heat pumps have been installed.

For further information please contact Mr Neil Owen on 07791 712502

hg

hg

One of the group braving the elements

A HAIL STORM and driving rain made this year's Borderland Rotary Club/ Dairi-Pak Mountain Bike Challenge more of a challenge than usual.

About 170 cyclists braved the foul weather to complete the charity cycle ride around the Berwyns.

The route is centered on Rhiwlas and runs for more than 20 miles around the mountains. Riders were rewarded with a certificate and refreshments provided by the Rotarian's wives on their return to the village hall.

Proceeds from the event go mainly to the Wales Air Ambulance and St. John's Ambulance Association.

AN OSWESTRY CHURCH organ may never be fully repaired after fundraisers decided to end their collecting efforts.

Members of the organ restoration project at the Parish Church of St Oswald the King and Martyr, in Church Road, have been organising events for around five years.

About £78,000 has been raised for the project so far to improve the in 1875 Victorian organ which, based on 2008 quotes, is expected to cost up to £100,000 for all the work needed.

But Veronica Donkin, organist, has revealed they have decided to end the fundraising project later this year after a major flower festival fundraiser.

x-head

The group tried to get grant funding by both the Arts Council and Heritage Lottery Fund but was turned down as they didn't quite fit the grant bodies criteria.

Mrs Donkin said: "We haven't succeeded in getting the funding we need to do the whole project.

"We have decided we have a big flower festival at the end of September and that will be the last major fundraising event we have.

"We will see what we raise from that and then discuss costs and take decisions on what we can and can't do.

"It is very sad but it is reflecting what has happened in the economy.

"There is a limit to how long you can run a project and keep people interested. There is also a limit to our own energy.

"It is a shame. Personally it is a great disappointment.

"We have worked very hard and tried all the possibilities to get the money but it is not forthcoming."

The money raised so far will go towards getting the instrument re-leathered but will not get it restored completely.

This will give the organ another 80 to 100 years.

At the moment the organ is not working after recently suffering a double blower burst. It has had to be taken away for repairs which means it has not been played for two Sundays or two funerals.

The flower festival will take place on The last Thursday to Saturday in September.

hg

A RURAL BUS service covering the Oswestry and Ellesmere areas has had its busiest month since it began more than two years ago.

Shropshire Link says across Shropshire it carried 6,500 passengers in April, 400 more than the previous month. Buses run at least two days a week in the rural areas. Shropshire Council's Martin Taylor-Smith said: "It is great to see

Summer fun lined up

THERE WAS a buzz of excitement at the Andrew Logan Museum of Sculpture in Berriew, near Welshpool, with the news that funding has been granted by the Arts Council of Wales.

The money has been granted for a series of summer workshops and a festival of events over the August Bank Holiday weekend, in celebration of the museum's 20th anniversary.

The museum intends to offer members of the local community, families, schools, colleges and local interest groups, a creative celebration that anyone can enjoy and participate in.

A series of summer workshops will be run at the museum which will include making mosaics and jewellery. Also weekly workshops will be run through the summer term at Ysgol Cadewain and Welshpool High School, using the same methods and materials that Andrew Logan himself uses. Pictured in the museum is project organiser Jessica Callan. ***Picture: Simon Williams***

Tourist centre's success

STAFF AT A Shropshire tourist information centre have welcomed their 1,750,000 visitor through the doors.

The Mile End centre, in Oswestry, saw its one and three quarter millionth visitor arrive on bank holiday Monday.

Honour Whitmore, the manager of the centre, said she has worked there since it opened in 1987.

She said: "We were delighted to welcome our 1,750,000th visitor to the centre.

"We have been proud to serve and help every one of the visitors that have come through our doors over the years and look forward to welcoming many more in the future."

The centre opened 24 years ago and still has three of its original staff as well as three other part-time staff and one casual member.

Fantastic

It gives visitors and residents in Oswestry information about events and attractions in the area and across the UK.

It also provides a showcase for local crafts and goods, sells maps, books and souvenirs.

Councillor Mike Owen said: "The Mile End visitor information centre provides a fantastic service to people from the Oswestry area, and plays a vital role promoting Oswestry and Shropshire to visitors from further afield.

"It's great news that staff at the centre have served so many customers since the centre opened in 1987."

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow said: "Congratulations to everyone working at the visitor centre.

"This is a fantastic milestone for everyone concerned and in particular, tourism in Oswestry, Shropshire and the surrounding area. There is always a warm welcome from staff who do a sterling job in looking after tourists' needs."

Shropshire Councillor Martin Bennett said: "As one of the former borough councillors responsible for the creation of the information centre, I am delighted that the project has been such a resounding success.

"The attractive building is strategically placed at the junction of the A483 and A5, but it is the care and attention that hard-working staff over the years have paid to creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere that really makes this very special.

"My congratulations to all concerned, may it go on from strength to strength."

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Plea for tales of 999 air service

THE AIR ambulance service which covers Shropshire has appealed for anyone helped by the flying doctor service to come forward and tell their tale.

Midlands Air Ambulance, which also serves Staffordshire, the West Midlands, Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, was originally founded as Air 5 in 1991 and operated a single helicopter from temporary facilities at East Midlands Airport.

The charity has since grown into one of the UK's largest and busiest air ambulance organisations, operating three helicopters and responding to more than 3,000 calls each year.

The charity wants to hear from as many airlift survivors or their friends and family as possible and build a library of stories representing each year it has been in existence.

Midlands Air Ambulance will also host a gala dinner to celebrate its 20th birthday on May 21 at Worcester Warriors RFC stadium.

Appeal for behind-the-scenes volunteers to help youth cafe

OSWESTRY'S YOUTH Cafe leaders have appealed for volunteers to help keep the project running behind the scenes.

Greg Hickman, chairman of the youth cafe, said that all skills were needed to run the charitable drop-in project for teenagers.

He was talking to Oswestry's annual town meeting about the facilities the youth cafe offered.

Mr Hickman said the cafe, in the Queens building, Oswald Road, was one of the first in Britain.

It opened with the help of funding from Oswestry Town Council, six years ago.

"Since then we have also helped youth cafes to set up in other areas, from as close as Wrexham to as far away as Cornwall," he said.

"We set ourselves up to try to help deal with some of the problems that face young people in Oswestry."

We provide a safe environment in which young people can relax and do what they want to do, whether that is playing snooker, getting involved in projects such as In-Bloom, going on the computers or simply lounging on the sofas."

Mr Hickman said the drop-in cafe was also able to offer support to the young people, whether that was signposting them to different services or supporting their education.

"We also give help to those looking to set up their home, we provide cookery help and can even give support with reading and maths skills."

He said the youth cafe also tried to help Oswestry's long-term, unemployed young people.

"We live in a rural area and so it is very hard for many people to find work. We work with agencies to try to find placements for young people and offer volunteering placements which have led to jobs."

The cafe on the premises sells food and non-alcoholic drinks which Mr Hickman said was aimed at getting healthy eating across.

He also urged those at the town meeting to drop in and see whether they could offer some voluntary help.

"We need all kinds of help including behind-the-scenes work such as accounting skills and organisational skills."

School says fond farewell as Anne retires

Anne Knowles with headmaster Brendan Wignall and director of finance Nick Haworth

THE MANAGER of Ellesmere College shop has retired after 28 years in the job.

Anne Knowles took over the shop in 1983 when it sold both clothes and tuck for the pupils, having moved to the school in 1971 with her husband, who was Derry Housemaster.

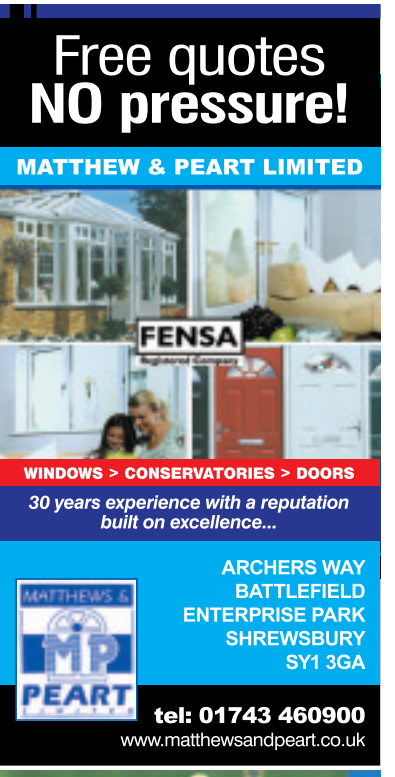
Mrs Knowles received presents and numerous messages of best wishes from many former pupils and was also presented with a bouquet of flowers by Paul Russell, Old Ellesmerian Club Secretary.

The school presented Mrs Knowles with lifetime membership of Ellesmere College Golf Club and a cheque.

Teachers gathered to bid farewell to her and she received some silverware and crystal sherry glasses from them.

Her round of retirement celebrations ended with a reception led by Nick Howarth, director of finance, with many of her colleagues past and present.

Brendan Wignall, headmaster, said: "Anne Knowles has always been a popular member of the team at the school. We wish her a most enjoyable retirement and look forward to seeing her on the golf course and at school events over the coming years."



Adding up school day memories

NOSTALGIA with Toby Neal

WE'RE GOING back to school today to bring back some memories of what will be, for many of you, those far-off school days.

These photos which we have dredged up from our archives will have some of you remembering old friends, or perhaps only half remembering them and wracking your brains to recall their names.

Changed

A few of you poring over these photos will spot yourself as you were then, and experience those tingles of toe-curling embarrassment.

How you've changed!

Let's start at Welshpool's Gungrog Primary School. The date is May 5, 1971 – it's actually written on the blackboard, which gives us the additional information that it was a Wednesday.

It's a lesson in lovely, lovely maths, hence all the smiling faces.

The particular reason that the photo was taken was that that week a mobile classroom was being used for the first time by pupils at the school.

"The classroom, which accommodates 40 pupils, is self-contained and is the first to be erected in Welshpool," the original caption said.

Take a close look at the blackboard and you can see some of the sums they were learning. There are, for example, 4 + 2 + 1 and 14 - 7.

The lady by the window is unfortunately not named in the caption, but no doubt these pupils – who must be pushing 50 now – will recognise her.

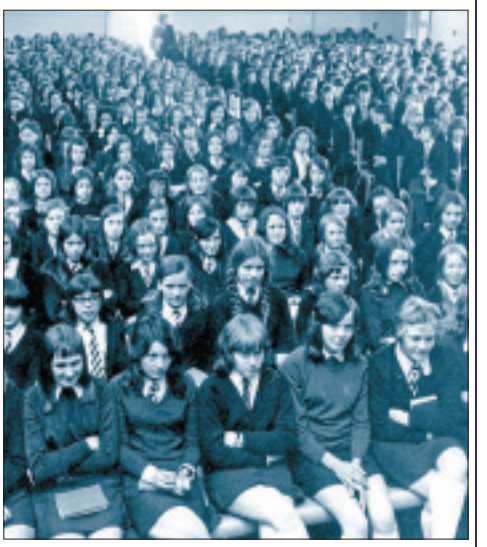
Prizegiving

Our next dip into the files takes us to Welshpool again where the High School pupils are assembling for their end-of-term prizegiving on July 12, 1974. You may wonder why they all appear to be girls. Well, there are lots of boys there too – but they're all separated out and are on the right. Wouldn't do to mix them, would it?

Lastly, back in July 1996, some pupils from Gobowen School were truly on a different planet – Planet in this case being a mechanical marvel among the collection at Oswestry Transport Museum. They visited the museum to help them with their transport project and to get a close-up look at some trains.

Pupils from Gobowen School visited the Oswestry transport museum

A class at Welshpool Gungrog Primary School



Pupils at Welshpool High School assembly for their end-of-term prizegiving on July 12, 1974

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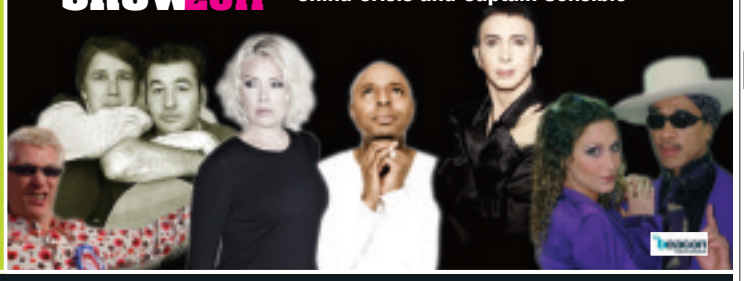

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From the studio with NEIL BENTLEY

107.1 The Severn · 106.5 The Severn

Top songs

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On the Floor, J Lo

Happy Now, Take That

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Cooler Than Me, Mike Posner

The Golden Age, The Asteroids Galaxy Tour

Glorious, The Pierces

Mother, Blondie

Skinny Love, Birdy

Put Your Hands Up, Nerina Pallot

A FULL WEEK at breakfast for the first time in ages courtesy of the recent bank holidays, I think myself and the team were ready for the weekend by the time we got to Wednesday.

Having said all that, we did spend a good portion of Monday's show outside the building because of a faulty fire alarm, luckily there was no fire and we could get back into the studio after a stretch of songs.

This week we restarted our Free Food Friday promotion with the Albright Hussey Manor, so nominate your friends and family now for free food.

Also this week we gave away a Sunday lunch meal for two courtesy of the Hungry Horse Oxon Priory, Shrewsbury.

As part of our New You for Summer campaign, I took our listeners Adam and Salma for a horse riding lesson at The Wyke Equestrian Centre in Shifnal. Thank you to Lyn and her staff who were more than accommodating towards us novice riders.

Lyn did comment that I had a very natural rhythm and controlled my horse very well, although to be honest, I think it was my horse Polo who did most of the work.

In local news; Oswestry Talking Newspaper is a registered charity which provides an audio version of local news and information taken from the local newspapers.

Anyone who is registered blind or visually impaired can get it. To request an application form call Andrew or Helen on (01691) 671766.

Also this week I have news of a car boot sale at Wem Rec on Saturday, May 28, from 9am to 1pm. The pitch fee is £6 and it's all in aid of Wem Christmas Festival. For more information call 01939 232963.

Mention

Remember, if you are a local group or are holding an event and would like myself or The Severn Team to get involved then drop me an e-mail with all the information and we'll try and give you a mention during the breakfast show and I will do my best to attend; e-mail me neil.bentley@thesevern.co.uk. You can always contact the studio by phone on 0333 456 0777.

Gentlemen, your thoughts on shaving? The reason why I ask is because this week we learned on the show that the average man spends 125 days of his life shaving, a task which I feel is 125 wasted days but a necessity none the less.

Shaving is one of those things as a teenager you can't wait to start doing but then, when you get to that time of life, you quickly get bored of.

The Neil Bentley Breakfast Show, weekdays from 6am on 106.5, 107.1 and 107.4fm The Severn. Follow us on Twitter @thesevern or listen online at *www.thesevern.co.uk*

Traffic news

Oswestry

Park Street, Oswestry, closed for roadworks until today (Thursday).

Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry, temporary traffic lights and roadworks until Wednesday.

Welshpool

Temporary traffic lights and roadworks on A483 in Four Crosses around the B4393 Canal Road junction.

Temporary traffic lights and roadworks in Smithfield Road, Welshpool (Trallwng), around the Greenfields junction.

Treat for bookworms

PEOPLE WHO join an annual membership scheme at Gregynog Hall are being given access to a fascinating library at the historic conference and event venue at Tregynon near Welshpool.

A visiting reader's card is available on request to members, enabling them to visit the library to read and study after an initial meeting with librarian Mary Oldham.

"The library is a treasure trove of fascinating and invaluable books and journals, especially relating to Welsh history, literature and culture in both the English and Welsh languages," said Karen Armstrong, Gregynog's director.

Other collections relate to the Arthurian cycle of legends in Britain and Europe, the arts, book production, printing, building and books in Irish, which are of particular interest to students of Celtic history and culture.

The annual membership scheme – £15 per person and £25 for a family of four – has been introduced to support Gregynog's upkeep.

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Free talk will give firms debt advice

A FREE SEMINAR is to be staged later this month to help Shropshire firms avoid debt problems because of the current economic crisis.

Thousands of companies went into liquidation throughout the country last year and bosses at Shropshire law firm Lanyon Bowdler say by holding the seminar they hope to be able to help county firms avoid cash trouble.

The seminar, at the Lion Quays Hotel, near Oswestry, will be held on May 24.

It will be presented by Lisa Blair, Lanyon Bowdler's debt recovery manager, a fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives with a wealth of experience in the debt recovery field. She also specialises in undefended commercial debt recovery.

She said: "Cash flow problems are responsible for causing 70 per cent of businesses to fail within their first year.

"In 2010, over 16,000 companies in England and Wales went into liquidation and in addition, there were a further 5,000 other corporate insolvencies.

"Local law firm Lanyon Bowdler, incorporating LG Solicitors, is responding to this by holding a free seminar which will provide businesses with an overview of best practice, and the steps to take to implement a better system in order to reduce the chances of bad debt."

The event is to be held from 12.15pm until 2pm. To book a free place on the event, contact Rachel Donaghey on (01952) 224047 or e-mail rachel.donaghey@lblaw.co.uk

Focus on fire safety

Watch manager Martin Huckle at the fire safety workshop

BUSINESSES attended a fire safety workshop at Oswestry Fire Station last Thursday organised by Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Paul Smith, a fire safety officer, said: "Our Business Fire Safety Team is committed to assisting companies to fulfil their legal and moral obligations in the workplace. Officers were on hand at the workshops to give advice and information.

"Current legislation was introduced by the Government five years ago to help safeguard all workplace premises from fire. Details on how companies must comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 were outlined."

He added: "This was all about protecting staff in the event of a fire and ensuring companies are able to continue running their business. Many firms never recover after a serious blaze."

Lawyers sort

AN OSWESTRY firm of solicitors plans to take on more lawyers despite the recession.

GHP Legal plans to recruit more litigation lawyers in the coming months thanks to an increase in its contract and dispute work.

Robert Williams, a partner in the firm, said the company, which has offices in Oswestry and North Wales, was bucking the trend which has seen some litigation lawyers out of work.

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Excited – The Kayas who are bidding to hit the top of the nation's charts

High hopes band's debut will top chart

A SHROPSHIRE INDIE rock group are hoping to top the nation's charts with their debut single.

Oswestry band The Kayas will be launching their new tune on June 6 after working with producer John Cornfield, who has helped top bands including The Stone Roses, Supergrass, Cast and The Bluetones.

The four piece group, which formed at the end of 2007, have called the single, I Have Been Waiting, and believe it will be a summer anthem.

Vocalist and guitarist Ad Edwards said: "We are really excited to be releasing our debut single and we have lots of other exciting things coming up.

"Things are moving forward.

"We hope everyone can support us and go out and buy the single in June and help us get into the top of the charts."

I Have Been Waiting has been described as "a captivating track of sublime quality and infuriating catchiness".

The group are currently recording their debut album at the famous Sawmill Studios in Cornwall, where Oasis recorded their debut Definitely Maybe and The Stone Roses fine tuned Fools Gold.

They also are the first band to have recorded their music video at the studios.

In the past The Kayas has supported Twisted Wheel and Kid British and the musicians were the selected band of the week on BBC Radio 6.

They have worldwide fans and have had people from 30 different countries visiting their website.

The band also has more than 3,300 fans on their Facebook page. For more information or to watch the single online visit *www.thekayasmusic.com*

Search to fill festival slot

OSWESTRY MUSIC festival OsFest is holding a battle of the bands after receiving more than 500 e-mails from musicians wanting a spot at the event.

The festival at Park Hall will be held on the weekend of May 28 and will attract thousands of revellers wanting to see top acts including Tinchy Stryder, Boomtown Rats and Labrinth.

Carly Jackson, event manager, has revealed there is now one slot left to fill and organisers will have a battle of the bands on Friday to select the group.

The event is at Oswestry's The Ironworks, in Church Street, from 8pm.

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Boyzone star in gear for show

Keith Duffy who will be at Shropshire Truck Show

GIG GUIDE

with Chrissy Symmons

BOYZONE SINGER and soap star Keith Duffy will be coming to Oswestry this weekend to meet fans at the Shropshire Truck Show.

The Coronation Street actor will be arriving at the show, held at Oswestry Showground, on Sunday to meet visitors and sign autographs.

The show starts on Saturday and will be full of family fun including a car-crushing showdown between monster trucks and a chance for visitors to ride and crush cars in monster truck "Red Dragon".

There will also be a freestyle motocross display team performing air jumps and tricks, the "Flingsby Fire Fly" stunt plane will stage air displays and hundreds of working, custom, vintage and American trucks will be on display.

Captured

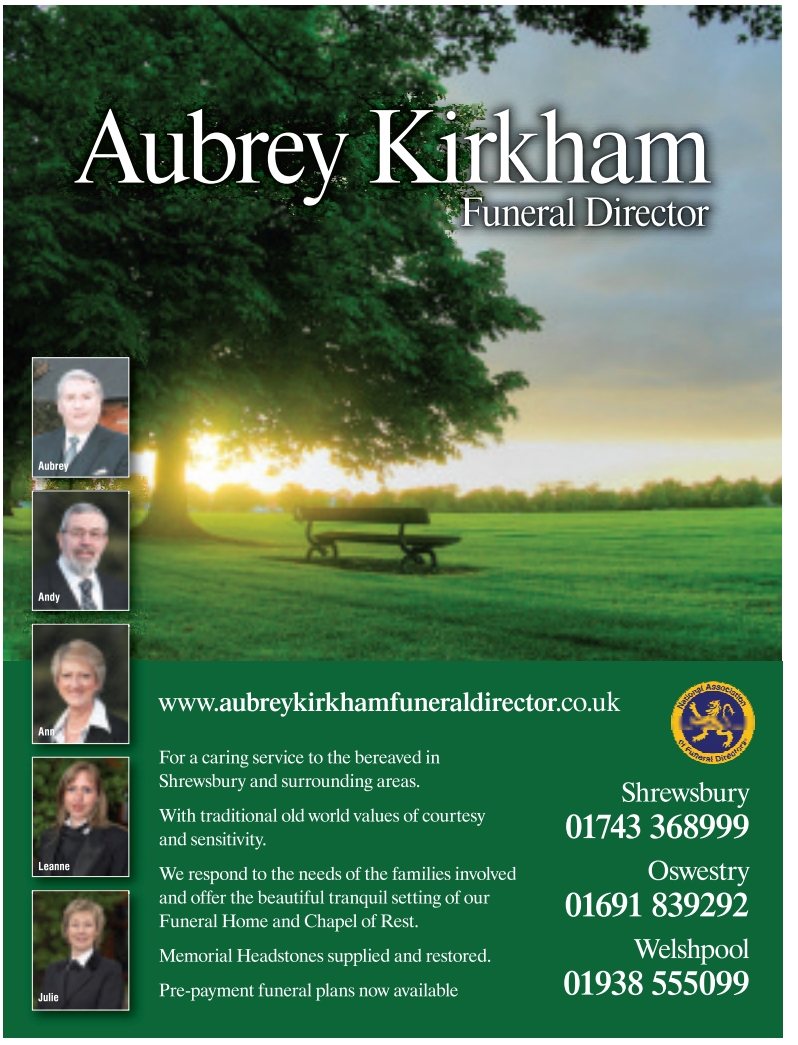
Tickets costs £10 for adults, £5 for children or £25 for a family of two adults and two children. Gates open at 9am and there will be a giant fun fair on site.

The original calendar girl, Tricia Stewart, will be telling her story about how her WI group helped raise cash for charity. Her tale captured the country's imagination and was turned into a film and a West End show. She will be at The Venue, in Park Hall, on May 14 from 7pm. Tickets cost £32.50 and money raised will go towards the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research Charity.

Singers will be entertaining at Llandrinio Village Hall on Friday and Saturday night with a cabaret event from 7.30pm. Audiences will be entertained with a range of musical numbers including Rhythm of Life from the West End show, Sweet Charity, a California Dreaming medley and a rendition of Always Look On The Bright Side of Life. Tickets cost £6.50 and are available from the village's garage.

On Monday, thespians will be performing, Improbable Fiction, at Oswestry's Attfield Theatre, until Saturday. Tickets are £6 and the show starts at 7.45pm. For information visit *www.attfieldtheatre.co.uk*

If you have an event coming up e-mail me at csymmons@shropshirestar.co.uk



Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): Fiesta Edge 1.25 5dr 82PS : urban 38.2 (7.4), extra urban 62.8 (4.5), combined 50.4 (5.6). Official CO_2 emission 129g/km.

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): Ka 1.2 Duratec (69PS) : urban 44.8 (6.3), extra urban 64.2 (4.4), combined 55.4 (5.1). Official CO_2 emission 119g/km.

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Owner Mick Cole is a talented craftsman with great experience within his field and his hard work, attention to detail, coupled with his understanding and pleasant nature always ensures a job well done. As a result demand for his work is still growing!

Mick's Bespoke Kitchens & Bedrooms can supply unique pieces of solid wood furniture o suit all tastes and requirements, whatever your budget, and quality is never compromised. Whenever you need furniture within the home or office, ensure you make a visit to Mick's Bespoke Kitchens and Bedrooms. From traditional to contemporary designs, all tastes can be catered for. Best of all you may choose to submit your own furniture designs and Mick will create them for you. Expert, friendly help and advice is always available to help you with your choice and you will surely enjoy the experience of making your dream furniture a reality!

Mick offers a complete bespoke service. Kitchens are available in many designs, shapes and solid wood materials, carefully measured and fitted to suite your room. Pine and Oak, Beech and Maple, a Belfast sink, integrated appliances, granite or laminate worktops, the choice is yours. All carcasses are rigidly constructed from 18mm solid timber. All drawers are dovetailed and no ply board or chipboard is used. Whether you require a complete new kitchen or you wish to upgrade your existing one with new replacement doors etc, the final result will definitely please and prices are most competitive! Why not complete your desire look with a new floor, a good variety of floor coverings are available including solid oak. Full design and fitting service, electrics, plumbing, tiling and building work can also be undertaken to provide you with the complete service.

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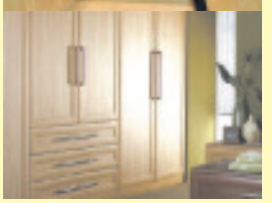

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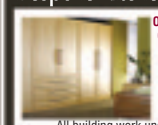

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Real buzz around new hive

AN OSWESTRY man has designed a new "bee-friendly" hive which he says should avoid some of the diseases that plague traditional hives.

Beekeeper Tony Gray says the octagonal hives are an "exciting new idea".

He set up his Oswestry business, Fragile Planet in Maesbury Road, to supply other beekeepers four years ago and now employs 14 people.

The hives are made from Welsh Western Red Cedar from Llanfyllin and have octagonal boxes rather than rectangular ones which are added to the top of the hive, not the bottom.

"This means the queen bee always lays in new comb on the leading edge of the comb as she does in the wild," he said.

"The hives also have observation windows so that you can see the colony developing quickly and easily. And the new comb is clean and fresh which should help to prevent some of the diseases which plague bee hives."

The hives will be launched at the Royal Horticultural Society's Malvern Show.

Ants' fearsome raid was food for thought

IF YOU were to stand in the middle of a muddy track, which disappeared into a veritable tunnel of dark green vegetation cloaked in heavy shadows, and turned to your right to be greeted with a sign expressing the dangers of what lay ahead, you'd probably be put off from exploring further.

Each one of the foreboding plants I could see was either laced with burning sap or endowed with hooks and spikes; the express purpose of their existence being to make my stay within their oppressive clutches an exercise in pain and curse-control.

The track looked like it had recently been vacated by a large pod of hippos, who aside from wallowing in the pond-sized potholes, had also engaged in some heavy petting without being told to leave the pool. And the sign dutifully warned of crocodiles, venomous snakes and jaguars.

ON THE WILD SIDE

with Ben Waddams

With such a warm welcome already conveyed upon me, it seemed rude to turn back and besides, night was falling and I preferred imagining that things could only get better, rather than pitch a tent next to a Guatemalan excuse for a road.

As it turned out, I shouldn't have worried about crocs, snakes and jaguars. In the jungle, it is the things you don't see, that get you.

Finding a small clearing for myself and my tent, I crawled into my sleeping bag and fell sound asleep. Waking at dawn, I congratulated myself on surviving the night, threw off my sleeping bag and unzipped the tent door.

My pack was still sitting in the makeshift porch but, as I inspected it, I could see something was wrong. All the food I had inside had disappeared, yet the bag itself had not moved an inch.

I got up and walked outside. As I looked back at my tent, I got a shock. There was a ring of army ants encircling me and held aloft above their tiny bodies, were the last particles of crisps and dried beef disappearing along a lengthy line of insects into the forest.

Without a trace

Army ants are fearsome creatures. The soldiers and workers regularly set out on raiding parties, enveloping anything that gets in their way and chopping it up into ant-sized blocks for transportation back to the nest.

In Africa, villagers leave their homes when a colony is on the move.

When the people return, the ants will have eaten every last cockroach and scorpion in the area and left without a trace. There is a more sinister side to the ants however; it is said sleeping babies have been carried away in manageable portions, along with the cockroaches and scorpions.

In Shropshire we do not thankfully have any army ant species in residence, but we do have wood ants. These interesting little animals build their nests of rotten wood and pine needles. I was once watching a nest from a distance, when a blackbird hopped down to investigate.

It was not "set upon" by the ants, but it flew off in haste to its perch above the colony. The blackbird was not bitten, but instead was "squirted" by hundreds of ants, who point their abdomens at their attacker and fire off jets of formic acid. Not as menacing as a marching column of army ants, but I for one would rather be squirted, than sliced and diced.

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DRIVE TIME

with Graham Breeze

ALL MOTORING journalists are asked which is the best car they have ever driven.

I never give an answer but would have to say that the Audi RS5 is right up there when accolades are being handed out.

This car has the lot. Audis do it for me anyway, but the RS5 has frightening performance, glue-like grip and styling that turns heads wherever you drive in gleaming red.

x-head

Meeting one coming in the opposite direction really makes you realise how imposing and striking this car looks on the roads – you just don't see too many of them at £58,000.

The RS5 packs a whopping 444bhp punch, thanks to a 4.2-litre V8. It's capable of sprinting from 0-62mph in 4.6 seconds and comes with Audi's seven-speed twin clutch automatic gearbox as standard.

Huge tyres on 19" alloys and an advanced four-wheel-drive system mean grip and traction are as good as it gets. The RS5 also has an adaptive suspension with settings ranging from Dynamic to Comfort – selecting automatic means it automatically swaps between the two and you don't have to worry.

While the driving experience is immense, a big thirsty engine means spending far too much time at the petrol forecourt. Audi claim a combined figure of 26.2mpg but it beats me how they achieved that. The model on test needed a fuel tank attached.

Insurance costs are also a worry and huge emissions mean the company tax bill is also through the roof. On the plus side residual values are as strong as all other models in the Audi family.

The dashboard ticks all the right boxes but is fussy and over elaborate and even after a week behind the wheel I still hadn't sorted everything out.

The RS5 has plenty of styling touches to befit its sporty status. It sits on 19-inch alloys, and you also get sparkly xenon headlamps with LED running lights, a body kit and aluminium effect door mirrors.

On the inside, the sporty touches include electrically adjusting leather sports seats. Parking sensors and climate control are also standard.

The 7-speed S tronic gearbox enables gearshifts to be executed in a few hundredths of a second with virtually no interruption in power flow.

This is the first time that this gearbox has been fitted in conjunction with a high-revving engine giving the performance and the acoustics that you would expect from an RS model.

A car such as the Audi RS 5 needs special treatment to put its power to the road. Enter quattro, Audi's renowned four-wheel-drive technology. And with the RS 5 comes the latest edition of the four-wheel drive system with self-locking centre differential and torque vectoring.

With quattro, optimal drive delivery to each wheel is managed automatically and continuously, for superior handling and phenomenal grip – even in less than perfect driving conditions.

x-head

In 1980, the Audi quattro was the first permanent four-wheel drive production car.

So while the technology is thoroughly tried and tested, it has also been enhanced and evolved ever since it was first introduced.

In the RS5, the power to the front and back wheels is split in a 40:60 ratio – giving the car a sporty, rear-focused driving style that guarantees maximum agility and driving enjoyment.

The extending rear spoiler is integrated into the luggage compartment lid. To increase downforce at high speed, the spoiler extends automatically at high speeds.

It is retracted again when the car reduces speed.

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The rear spoiler can also be activated or deactivated by pressing a button on the centre console. The rear seats are too cramped for tall adults, as the roofline restricts rear headroom and there's little leg and knee-room, though you do sit deeply in the chairs.

The car does though have a huige boot which sailed through the 'golf club test'.

Wide opening front doors and electrically sliding seats mean entry for rear seat passengers is easy enough.

Is it the best car I have ever driven? Probably not. But I'm still not saying which is.

Nuts and bolts

Audi A5Coupe 4.2litre V8 RS5

Cost: £56,685

Performance: 0-62mph : 4.6secs

Top speed: 155mph

Combined fuel: 26.2mpg

Tank: 367miles

Omissions: 252 g/km

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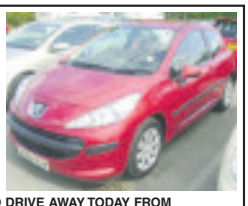

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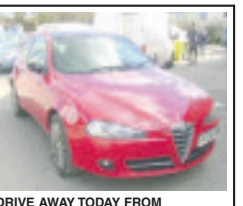

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NEWS

Electric cars bring spark to challenge

THE EARLY entry list for the 2011 RAC Future Car Challenge proves that zero emissions can bring high excitement.

Taking place on Saturday, November 5, the opening list of vehicles taking part in this year's challenge reads more like the starting grid of a motor race than a competition for low-energy vehicles.

The Royal Automobile Club event has also received the backing of three times Formula 1 World Champion Sir Jackie Stewart.

"The motor vehicle in modern times has enjoyed continuous development and abuse of energy, however this has become unacceptable to many," said Sir Jackie.

"To encourage better use of this great currency I congratulate the Royal Automobile Club in their initiative to promote new ways of achieving results for the motorised community."

First entries received for the 2011 event provide a striking line-up of EV sports cars including the Radical SRZero supercar, Tesla Roadster, Delta E4 Electric Coupe, Vortex EV Coupe and the Ecotricity Nemesis.

The Tesla Roadster, pictured, is well-known as the first production electric sports car as well as being one of the fastest.

The British-built Ecotricity benefits from a similar lightweight structure to the Tesla but uses a different cell and motor arrangement. A speed of 170mph makes it possibly the world's fastest electric vehicle. Their rival comes in the shape of the Delta E4 Electric Coupe, which has a hi-tech carbon fibre design with impressive performance on electric power.

The Vortex EV Coupe uses a lightweight, pared-back design and with a target weight of under 600kg the Vortex Sports Electric will be capable of blasting 0 to 60mph in under six seconds.

Although these confirmed entries are electric, the RAC Future Car Challenge is also open to hybrid, hydrogen and low-emission internal combustion engine cars and light-commercial vehicles. The challenge requires entrants to cover a 60-mile route from Brighton to London, mirroring the annual London to Brighton Veteran Car Run. The winner will be the car that uses the least amount of energy on the route.

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FIXTURES

Oswestry Bowls League

Division one, Tuesday: Ceiriog Valley A v Chirk AAA A, Church A v Whittington A, Llanrhaeadr A v Flexsys A, Llanymynech A v Corwen A, Overton A v Johnstown A, Criftins A v Llangollen A.

Division two: Chirk AAA B v Criftins B, Johnstown B v Black Lion, Llangynog A v George, Ruabon A v Cynwyd A, Ye Olde Crofte A v Weston Rhyn A, Whittington B v Llanfyllin A. 18th May: Johnstown C v Church B, Flexsys B v Weston Rhyn C, Llangollen B v Ceiriog Valley B, Llanrhaeadr B v Llanymynech B, Overton B v Whittington C, Royston A v Plas Kynaston A.

Division four, Wednesday: Ceiriog Valley C v Llanrhaeadr C, Church D v Johnstown D, Fox Lane v Criftins C. Llangynog C v Corwen B, Weston Rhyn B v Church C, Whittington E v Royston B.

Division five, Thursday: Chirk AAA C v Overton C, Cynwyd B v Ye Olde Crofte B, Llangynog B v Johnstown E, Llanrhaeadr D v Ellesmere B, Weston Rhyn D v Plas Kynaston B.

Division six, Thursday: Ellesmere A v Ruabon B, Johnstown F v Weston Rhyn E, Llanfyllin B v Llanrhaeadr E.

Tanners Claret Shropshire Bowling League

Friday, Division one: Castlefields v Ludlow Castle, Crescent v Burway, Hanwood v Wem BC, Pontesbury v George, Reman v Prince Hotel, Telepost v Battlefield.

Division two: Bricklayers v Wem USC, Church Club v Elephant & Castle, Corbet Arms v Craven Arms, Oxon v Whittington, POWBC v Bishops Castle, Unison v Meole Brace.

Division three: Bromfield v Greenfields Social, Hadnall v Bagley, Ifton v Reman Services, OSBC v Bicton, Severnside St Julians v Meole Brace.

Division four: Baschurch v Minsterley, Bicton Village v Dorrington, Frankwell v New Hanwood, Monkmoor v St Oswalds, Preston Brockhurst v Worthen & Brockton, Prince Social v Oxon Village.

Shropshire Bowls Premier League

Friday, Newport v Chester Road, Wem USC v Bylet, Meole Brace v Ifton, St Georges v Sir J Bayley, Ford v Wrock Wood, Childs Ercall v Castlefields.

Wrexham League

Saturday, Division one: Bersham A v Esclusham C, Castell Alun v Parciau A, Ellesmere A v Coedpoeth, Flexsys v Ellesmere B, Gate HH A v Cunliffe B, Gresford Colliery B v Gate HH B.

Wem & District Bowling League

Monday, Division one: Meole Brace A v Meole Brace C, Newport v POWBC A, Battlefield A v Sir John Bayley, Ford A v Pontesbury A, Ifton A v Hanwood A.

Division two: E & C Shawbury v Corbet A, Prince Hotel A v Wem BC A, Reman Services A v Wem USC, Corbett B v Oxon A, Bayston Hill A v Telepost A .

Division three: Baschurch A v Bricklayers B, OSBC A v Ford B, Unison A v Ifton B, Llanmynech v Telephost B, Minsterley v Unison B.

Division four: Meole Brace D v Meole Brace B, Monkmoor v Pontesbury B, Greenfields v Crescent, Dorrington v Battlefield B, POWBC B v Whittington, Bicton B v Atcham.

Division five: SAHA v Baschurch B, Oxon B v Hadley USC, Hanwood B v Bayston Hill B, Bagley v Reman Services B, Pontesbury C v OSBC B, Wem BC B v Prince Hotel B.

Robinson eyes consistency – and points

IFTON SKIPPER Steve Robinson believes consistency is the key to success as his side seek to climb the Shropshire Premier League table with a win at Meole Brace tomorrow night.

Robinson saw his side register and important victory over Wem USC last week and is now urging his squad to string together a series of results to move them towards the top half of the table.

He said: "It is already a very tight division this year.

"Two or three wins in a row makes a big difference and that is what we want to try and do against Meole.

"We know they're a good side and we know it will be a difficult game for us but we have to go there believing we can get a good result and take home a few points.

"It is a green we haven't done too badly on in the past and a few of our bowlers actually quite like playing there so that should work in our favour.

"If we could win two in a row then it sets us up nicely for another home game the following week.

Performances

"The key for us is to try and get some consistency in our performances and string together a few results."

And Robinson added that he was pleased his side had managed to edge a couple of the close matches during their win over Wem – something they have struggled to do so far this term.

He said: "I wouldn't say it was a great result but it was important we won a couple of the close ones."Geraint Williams fought back form 17-5 down to win his match 21-17 and that was a great performance.

"Brian Hayes and Graham Dulson also won close matches and that made the difference."

Ifton's top performer was Simon Tyler who enjoyed a 21-4 victory but the in form bowler will be unavailable for the trip to Meole.

And Marcus Hughes, who was beaten 21-5 last time out, will also miss the trip meaning there will be recalls for Mike Gilpin and Graham Rogers after the pair both missed the Wem win.

FURROWS SHROPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	GW	Agg	Pts
Newport	5	3	40	179	47
Chester Road	5	3	40	137	46
Wrock Wood	5	3	34	89	40
St Georges	5	3	33	84	39
Sir John Bayley	5	3	32	42	39
Castlefields	5	3	32	62	38
Meole Brace	5	2	30	77	36
Bowring	5	3	28	-40	34
Childs Ercall	5	2	27	-123	31
Archibald W'ton	5	1	27	-79	29
Ifton	**5**	**2**	**25**	**-49**	**29**
Wem USC	5	2	24	-111	28
Bylet	5	2	24	-166	28
Ford	5	1	24	-102	26

Full results: Bowring 9 (+3), Newport 5. Bylet 9 (+12), Archibald Worthington 5. Chester Road 11 (42), Ford 3.

Ifton 9 (+9), Wem USC 5. St Georges 11 (+44), Meole Brace 3. Sir John Bayley 8 (+12), Castlefields 6. Wrock Wood 10 (+42), Childs Ercall 4.

B team in fine form

IFTON B enjoyed a comfortable home victory in division three of the Wem league as they cruised to a 10-2 win against Old Shrewsbury.

The B team will aim to build on that victory with another hefty points haul at Unison.

But it wasn't such good news for the A team who were beaten by the same scoreline in their visit to Pontesbury in division one.

The A team host Hanwood on Monday looking for a home win.

Whittington all set for derby as champions Criftins crash

The Church B bowlers who were 8-2 winners over Llangynog on Tuesday night. Back, from left, captain Emrys Jones, Graham Warren, Glyn Edwards and Mervyn Weaver. Front: Glenys Jones, Pam Milner, Wendy Kendrick and Cheryl Weaver.

IT'S NOT often you hear a winning captain declare himself disappointed with a performance but that was the verdict Whittington A skipper Aled Davies offered after his side's narrow 7-3 win over Flexsys.

The home side took the aggregate by just a single point with Davies himself claiming the final match 21-13 to ensure Whittington took the extra two points.

And Davies is chasing improvement from his side ahead of next week's derby date at Church A.

"We will need to play a lot better next week," he said. "We didn't bowl very well and they bowled very well.

"It keeps us in there at the top but we had hoped for a few more points against Flexsys because they are a side who are just looking to stay up this season.

"We've had two home games in a row now and we haven't quite made the most of them and it will show in the second half of the season when we have two away games.

"Hopefully we will pick up a few points at Church as well. It's a green where we haven't done too badly in the past so hopefully that will continue."

Mervyn Davies was the leading Whittington player in the Flexsys victory clinching a 21-11 success.

Elsewhere champions **Criftins** suffered a shock 8-2 reverse at Corwen.

Winners of the title for the last three seasons, Criftins had started this year in a similar vein with four straight wins but came unstuck at Corwen.

Dave Edwards and Anthony Jones were the two winners for the holders as both secured 21-15 successes. But it wasn't enough for the away side who lost the aggregate 156-124.

Optimism

Llanymynech A remain at the wrong end of the table after a 7-3 loss at Ceiriog Valley but skipper Tony Jones saw reasons for optimism from an improving side.

"We had a card to 20 which was obviously a close defeat," said Jones.

"It was a good game and we didn't play too badly."

Clive Roberts led the way with a 21-8 win while Dale Pritchard won to 14 and Mark Kirkham to 20 as Llanymynech picked up three wins on the road.

Llanrhaeadr A are also in trouble at the bottom after going down 7-3 away at Johnstown.

"It's the same old story for us away from home," said disappointed skipper Emlyn Jones who saw Mark Evans (21-13), Gwyn Hughes (21-19) and Steve Jones (21-10) collect the points in a 157-125 aggregate defeat.

In the division's other game **Church A** were downed 8-2 away at Llangollen. Paul Milner recorded a 21-9 victory while Steve Williams was the other winner (21-14) on a disappointing day for the Oswestry club.

Kendrick leads Church to win as George suffer

WENDY KENDRICK and Glenys Jones led the way for Church B as they stormed to an 8-2 success over Llangynog in division two.

Kendrick was an impressive 21-1 winner while Jones almost matched that with a 21-2 success as Church took a 148-102 aggregate victory.

Skipper Emrys Jones was another victor for the home side.

And the result left Jones delighted with both her own, and the team's performance.

"It was a great win for us," she said.

"Glyn Edwards deserves a mention because his game (a 21-19 win) was one of the best of the night.

"It was a really good performance from us so hopefully we can keep it going now.

"We were concerned we might be rained off but the weather held and we managed to bowl really well."

The weather also had an impact on the match at the **George** as they rescued a 5-5 draw at home to Cynwyd.

George secured three winners with Phil Laker's 21-6 success proving crucial as the Oswestry side sneaked the aggregate by one.

Peter Corfield and Merv Roberts were the other two winners for George who at one stage looked like they were heading for defeat.

And George skipper Bryan Hopkins was left to reflect on what might have been for the home side.

"The rain made a big difference to us," he said.

"We don't practice in the rain so the green was different and they played it a bit better than we did.

"It wasn't a great result for us because we should be winning our home games but we will just keep going."

Elsewhere, **Weston Rhyn A** enjoyed a 7-3 home success over Johnstown to keep them among the leading pack.

The victory was a third on the bounce for Brian Oakley's side.

George in key victory

GEORGE recorded an important 11-3 victory over Crescent in division one of the Tanners League.

George took the aggregate 241-168 to clinch the win and they visit Pontesbury tomorrow night.

In division two Church were beaten 11-2 by POWBC ahead of a home game against Elephant & Castle on Friday.

In division three Ifton lost 8-6 against Bicton while Weston Rhyn won 9-5 against Reman Services.

BOWLS
by Alex James

Church D all smiles but C side lose out

CHURCH C lost ground at the top of division four with a 7-3 reverse at Ceiriog Valley B.

Steve Lewis, Neville Bennett and Neil Williams were the three winners for the Oswestry club.

It was better news for the Church D side who secured a much needed home success with an 8-2 victory over Llanrhaeadr C.

The win was the first of the season for Church D with Scott Tudor and William Lewis leading the way with single figure victories.

The two away wins came courtesy of John Davies (21-17) and Phil Roberts (21-19).

Elsewhere Whittington E and Weston Rhyn B both picked up four points on the road at Fox Lane and Llangynog C.

Whittington came close to pinching an extra point but were beaten by just six on the aggregate with Graham Humphries (21-13) the leading performer.

Pam Manley (21-10) led the way for Rhyn B but they were defeated by 25 on the aggregate,

Criftins C also suffered defeat away from home as they lost 7-3 to new leaders Johnstown D.

Roger Barclay (21-15) was the top winner for the visitors.

In division five, Ellesmere B head the pack after an impressive 8-2 away win at Cynwyd B.

Ted Formstone, Beryl Hall and Mary Hotham all enjoyed single figure victories for the league leaders.

Weston Rhyn D remain hot on their heels after they too secured an notable away win running out 7-3 winners at Chirk AAA C.

Pip Penrose and Malcolm Jones were single figure winners for Rhyn.

Elsewhere Whittington D and Ye Olde Crofte B remain well placed after both recorded 7-3 wins.

Pam Manley – victory

Whittington's came at Llanrhaeadr where Eirlys Williams was the pick of the bunch winning 21-9, while Crofte were home winners over Johnstown, led by a 21-6 victory from Ted Lewis.

In division six Weston Rhyn E cruised to an 8-2 win over Llanrhaeadr E while Whittington F suffered a home defeat by the same scoreline against Ruabon B.

James White won 21-2 for Rhyn to set them on their way while John Hines' (21-5) also impressed.

Matty Williams and Derek Trueman were the two winners for Whittington.

Whittington C close gap at top

IN DIVISION three Whittington C lept up to third after a comfortable 7-3 home win over Plas Kynaston A.

Keith Bellis (21-6) led the way for the hosts while Ivor Haynes and Ivor Davies also secured valuable victories.

The village C team moved to within a point of Whittington B after the B side suffered defeat on their travels, going down 8-2 to Flexsys B.

Jacqui Whitley (21-19) and Keith Hampson (21-16) were the two winners for the away side as they stay second in the early-season table.

At the other end of the table Llanrhaeadr B secured their first victory of the season with an 8-2 win over fellow strugglers Llanfyllin A.

Single figure victories from Linda Barker (21-6) and Ron Luffman (21-9) paved the way for the home side's victory as they took the aggregate by 38 points in what proved a comfortable success.

Elsewhere, Weston Rhyn C defeated Llanymynech B 6-4 to leave the border side still looking for their first victory.

Eaton Willliams (21-9) was Llanymynech's best performer but despite his win coming in one of three opening games which were all won by the visitors, Rhyn came back into the contest took the victory thanks in part to a pair of 21-2 wins from Norman Boulton and Dale Evans.

The final three matches all went the way of Rhyn with the visitors managin only nine points in total.

Ellesmere in double defeat

IT WAS a bad day for the two Ellesmere sides in division one of the Wrexham League as both suffered defeats.

The A team were beaten 10-4 away to Esclusham C while the B team fell to a 9-5 defeat at home to Gresford Colliery B.

The result leaves Ellesmere B bottom of the table while the A side sit in sixth spot.

PLACINGS

Applewood Oswestry League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	Agg	Pts
Criftins A	4	4	+109	32
Chirk AAA A	4	3	+107	27
Johnstown A	4	2	+123	25
Llangollen A	4	2	+34	22
Whittington A	4	2	-19	21
Ceiriog Valley A	4	2	+37	20
Corwen A	4	2	-23	19
Church A	4	2	-42	19
Overton A	4	1	-8	17
Llanrhaeadr A	4	1	-99	15
Flexsys A	4	1	-139	12
Llanymynech A	4	1	-80	11

DIVISION 2

	P	W	Agg	Pts
George	4	4	+100	29
Ruabon A	4	2	+45	26
Weston Rhyn A	4	3	+34	22
Johnstown C	4	3	-3	22
Cynwyd A	4	1	+16	20
Johnstown B	4	2	+9	20
Llangynog A	4	2	-53	20
Ye Olde Crofte A	4	1	+8	19
Criftins B	4	2	-50	18
Black Lion	4	1	-1	17
Church B	4	1	-39	16
Chirk AAA B	4	0	-66	11

DIVISION 3

	P	W	Agg	Pts
Plas Kynaston A	4	3	+139	28
Whittington B	4	3	+122	27
Whittington C	4	3	+22	25
Overton B	4	2	+35	23
Ceiriog Valley B	4	2	+52	20
Llangollen B	4	2	-1	20
Llanfyllin A	4	2	-18	20
Royston A	4	2	-19	20
Weston Rhyn C	4	2	+7	18
Flexsys B	4	2	-57	17
Llanrhaeadr B	4	1	-105	12
Llanymynech B	4	0	-177	10

DIVISION 4

	P	W	Agg	Pts
Johnstown D	4	2	+89	25
Church C	4	3	+51	24
Whittington E	4	2	+46	23
Weston Rhyn B	4	2	+9	22
Corwen B	4	2	+17	21
Fox Lane	4	2	+15	21
Criftins C	4	2	-57	20
Llanrhaeadr C	4	2	-45	19
Llangynog C	4	2	+3	18
Church D	4	1	-1	16
Ceiriog Valley C	4	2	-65	16
Royston B	4	1	-62	15

DIVISION 5

	P	W	Agg	Pts
Ellesmere B	4	3	+190	31
Weston Rhyn D	4	3	+165	29
Ye Olde Crofte B	4	3	-25	21
Whittington D	4	2	-9	20
Overton C	3	2	+54	18
Llangynog B	4	2	-69	17
Plas Kynaston B	4	1	-66	16
Llanrhaeadr D	4	1	-74	15
Chirk AAA C	3	1	-30	12
Cynwyd B	3	1	-59	11
Johnstown E	3	1	-77	10

DIVISION 6

	P	W	Agg	Pts
Ruabon B	3	3	+165	24
Church E	3	3	+88	22
Weston Rhyn E	4	1	-36	18
Ellesmere A	2	2	+111	16
Llanfyllin B	2	2	+103	16
Overton D	4	2	-106	14
Johnstown F	3	0	-75	11
Whittington F	3	1	-68	10
Llanrhaeadr E	4	0	-182	9

Stubbs, Parkin & South Whitchurch League

Division one: AWC A 213, Chester Road A 216; Bridgewater A 235, Con Club 169; Childs Ercall A 221, Wem A 207; District A 216, Adderley A 204; Hanmer A 234, Prees A 202; Malpas Sports A 236, Ellesmere A 155; Wem USC A 227, Woore 163.

Division two: Audlem A 218, Harriers 215; Chester Road B 214, Malpas A 224; Hadnall A 237, Calverhall A 179; Ifton 208, Ash A 178; Moreton Saye 205, Wem Albion A 197; Nantwich Park Rd A 231, AWC B 189; Wem B 215, Preston Brockhurst A 211.

Division three: Chester Rd Ladies A 216, District B 161; Corbet A 193, Cholmondeley A 202; Ellesmere D 219, Malpas Sports B 167; Hodnet A 247, Wem USC B 145; Malpas B 228, Audlem B 203; Prees B 197, Wrenbury A 226; AWC C 220, Malpas Farmers A 192.

Division five: Whixall B 221, Calverhall B 166; Audlem C 238, Chester Rd Ladies B 160; Cholmondeley B 225, AWC D 191; District C 212, Woore B 218; Hanmer D 227, Norton in Hales B 192; Hodnet B 250, Ellesmere B 135; Bridgewater C 182, District D 220.

Div seven: Chester Rd Ladies C 250, Cholmondeley C 144; Chester Rd D 224, Hanmer C 207; Wem Albion B 215, Adderley C 174.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	Agg
Chester Road A	60	39	1149
Bridgewater A	60	36	1100
AWC A	60	33	1086
Wem A	60	32	1084
District A	60	27	1073
Hanmer A	60	32	1042
Wem USC A	60	37	1040
Childs Ercall A	60	26	1023
Adderley A	60	30	1022
Woore	60	26	1019
Malpas Sports A	60	32	1000
Ellesmere A	**60**	**25**	**992**
Prees A	60	25	966
Con Club	60	20	931

DIVISION 2

	P	W	Agg
Preston Brockhurst A	60	39	1126
Hadnall A	60	38	1101
Wem B	60	33	1100
Nantwich Park Road A	60	34	1094
Harriers	60	33	1093
Chester Road B	60	29	1057
Malpas A	60	29	1039
Audlem A	60	27	1027
Wem Albion A	60	27	1010
Calverhall A	60	28	1003
AWC B	60	28	987
Moreton Saye	60	30	967
Ash A	60	16	926
Ifton	**60**	**29**	**903**

DIVISION 3

	P	W	Agg
Chester Rd Ladies A	60	39	1121
Wrenbury A	60	38	1117
Malpas Farmers A	60	38	1093
Malpas Sports B	60	37	1089
Hodnet A	60	35	1063
Malpas B	60	29	1045
AWC C	60	31	1043
District B	60	33	1037
Audlem B	60	25	1005
Prees B	60	25	997
Ellesmere D	**60**	**23**	**984**
Cholmondeley A	60	31	982
Corbet A	60	21	940

DIVISION 5

	P	W	Agg
District D	60	35	1100
Audlem C	60	36	1076
Chester Rd Ladies B	60	32	1076
Whixall B	60	35	1073
Woore B	60	32	1058
Hanmer D	60	34	1039
District C	60	32	1019
Hodnet B	60	31	1006
Cholmondeley B	60	33	1003
Norton in Hales B	60	25	983
AWC D	60	24	977
Bridgewater C	60	27	944
Calverhall B	60	22	916
Ellesmere B	**60**	**22**	**915**

DIVISION 7

	P	W	Agg
Chester Rd Ladies C	48	29	851
Wem Albion B	48	27	842
Chester Road D	48	23	815
Cholmondeley C	48	22	799
Malpas Farmers C	36	25	671
Nantwich Park Rd C	36	21	649
Hanmer C	36	19	640
Adderley C	36	14	580
Ellesmere C	**36**	**12**	**536**
Wrenbury C	24	13	434
Cheswardine B	36	11	377

Batsmen struggle in Monty defeat

MONTGOMERY SUFFERED a disappointing home reverse to Lilleshall in division one after failing with the bat.

The mid-Wales side managed just 131-8 off their 35 overs with opener Robert Kinsey (27) and Richard Blayney (27) providing the main resistance.

A much needed partnership between number six Blayney and wicket keeper Rob Bennett (20) helped push Monty up over 100.

It was then left to Jack Williams to make a late charge with 17 not out to reach 131–9.

Kinsey then took 3-5 off three overs but it was to no avail as the visitors reached their target for the loss of just three wickets with more than three overs to spare.

Half centuries from Tom Davies (62) and Paul Mochan (51) steered **Ellesmere** to an eight wicket win over Acton Reynald in division two.

The pair helped Ellesmere reach their target of 140 with a little over six overs to spare.

Surge

A late innings surge from Matt Williams and wicket-keeper Neil Dermody propelled **Whittington** to victory in their division three clash with Trysull & Seisdon.

Batting first Whittington were in all sorts of trouble at 47-7 before Williams, who finished not out on 36, and Dermody (20) helped them to 118 all out in 31 overs.

And in reply the Whittington bowling attack, led by Matthew McKenzie's 4-16, skittled out the hosts for just 72.

In division four **Montgomerey IIs** were beaten by Grove in a close contest.

Put into bat there was a familiar feel to the start of the innings as the first three batsmen fell for 15 runs.

But the middle order responded for Monty as they made 187-9 off their 35 overs. Keith Griffiths hit 43 with Jonathan Williams (32) and Jake Wilkinson (31) also making useful runs.

In reply Grove got of to a steady start and opener Keith Sambrook (93) took the game away from Montgomery.

In division seven **Oswestry IVs** game at Whitchurch IVs was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

FIXTURES

Division one: Alberbury v Montgomery, Cound v Condover, Forton v Welshpool, Knockin v Wroxeter, Lilleshall v Frankton, Llanidloes v Pontesbury.

Division two: Cae Glas v Acton Reynald, Church Stretton v Willey, Ellesmere v Wellington III, Frankton II v Lilleshall II, Iscoyd/FB v Tibberton, Market Drayton v Bishop's Castle.

Division three: Beacon v Cound II, Pontesbury II v Corvedale, Shifnal III v Wheaton Aston, St Georges III v Chelmarsh, Trysull & Seisdon v Shrewsbury III, Whitchurch III v Whittington.

Division four: Calverhall v Grove, Church Aston v Harcourt, Hinstock v Oswestry III, Montgomery II v Alberbury II, Wellington IV v Hodnet & Peplow, Wroxeter II v Knockin.

Division five: Acton Reynald II v Guilsfield, Bridgnorth III v Frankton III, Condover II v Market Drayton II, Ludlow III v Quayside, Newport III v Hales, Welshpool II v Overton.

Division six: Bishop's Castle II v Wem III, Prees v Bomere Heath III, Tibberton II v St Georges IV, Welshpool III v Forton II, Worfield III v Cae Glas II.

Division seven: Beacon II v Allscott III, Corvedale II v Llanidloes II, Knockin III v Ellesmere II, Quatt III v Alberbury III, Grove II v Madeley III, Lilleshall III v Wellington V, Oswestry IV v Calverhall II, Whittington II v Whitchurch IV, Willey II v Pontesbury III.

Bladen anchors victory

Frankton 143 for 9, beat Cound 142 all out, by one wicket

FRANKTON MADE up for their opening day disappointment in division one of the FBC Manby Bowdler League with a thrilling one wicket success at home to Cound.

Captain Jordan Parry won the toss and decided to have a bowl on a green deck.

Openers Ed Whyte and Rich Parry-Jones started well with the new ball and removed the top three batsmen as well as keeping the run rate down.

Graham Trow (34) top scored for the visitors but wickets fell at regular intervals throughout the innings with Stu Lammie (2-11) and Tom Wilkie (3-27) blitzing the middle and lower order.

Cound eventually scored 142 all out with four balls of their 35 over allocation remaining.

The Frankton response started badly with last week's batting hero Dave Powell run out for a duck after a misunderstanding with his opening partner.

Ross Bladen (53) and Jason Brookes (26) then set a great platform for the run chase, ensuring no further wickets were lost in a tricky spell against the new ball.

The Chappell brothers both added 18 runs a piece in bright partnerships with Bladen but a flood of wickets with the game seemingly in the bag meant Frankton were left needing three runs for victory with just one wicket remaining.

Opening bowlers Whyte and Parry-Jones then proved their worth with the bat and ensured the home side scrambled home with just fice balls to spare.

● **Frankton IIs match at Willey was called off on Saturday due to a waterlogged wicket.**

Early setback sees Frankton struggle

Frankton IIIs (6pts) 153 for 9, lost to Newport IIIs (20pts), 154 for six, by four wickets

FRANKTON IIIS suffered a disappointing first defeat in their new elevated status of Division Five, having won in fine fashion at Ludlow the previous week.

Batting first, Frankton started disastrously, losing both openers with the score on zero. Danny Evans (25) and Dave Whitticase (21) steadied the ship before both were dismissed by spinner Beckie Ruston.

George Austin scored an attractive 20 before some lusty blows from Phil Curzon (33) boosted the Frankton score to 153 for 9 from their 35 overs.

Dropped catches hindered the Frankton cause, both openers earning reprieves. Wickets did eventually start to fall, with George Dickin picking up 3-40, but on a fast scoring ground, Frankton were never able to bowl a tight enough line.

Newport eventually got home for the loss of six wickets with five overs to spare.

Firsts cruise to win as seconds bat well in draw

Knockin &Kinnerley (20pts) 93 for 6 beat Condover (4pts), 92 all out, by four wickets

ON A DAMP day Knockin made the journey to Condover and with rain in the air the toss was going to be vital.

The skippers agreed a 35 overs per side match and Knockin skipper Hugh Morris called correctly and inevitably asked Condover to have first use of a wet wicket.

Knockin wasted no time to get into the Condover batting line up with only James Upton (14) and Paddy Higham batting at number 10 (15) making any score of note as the Knockin bowlers used the conditions to perfection.

Ben Wilson playing his first game in 2011 snared three victims for just 12 runs with Tim Cotton (2-11) and Dan Jones (2-22) keeping the hosts at bay.

In reply Knockin lost 6 wickets to reach their target and had Dave Jones to thank for making 38 not out to hold the reply together and it was he who was there to score the winning run in the 29th over.

For Condover John Mansell returned with figures of 2-16 from 8 tight overs but it was not enough to prevent Knockin from sealing their second victory of the season.

Next week Knockin host much fancied Wroxeter at the Nursery Ground and Condover make the very short trip to Cound.

Knockin &Kinnerley IIs 246 for 8 (14pts) drew with Church Aston 202 for 5 (12pts)

In division four Knockin & Kinnerley IIs couldn't claim maximum points despite an encouraging batting performance.

The match was reduced to 40 overs a side and Knockin made first use of an excellent looking wicket with Bluey Thomas looking in good touch opening the innings.

And in Jack Jones they have an inform batsman. He made 63 and Thomas 67 as the pair set a platform for a challenging total in a partnership worth 89.

The middle order responded to the departures of the Knockin key men and with Seth Bradbury (28) and Jamie Jagger (23) adding vital runs Knockin as closed on an imposing 246-8.

In reply Church Aston were soon in trouble having lost two of their top four for single figure scores they then lost another, retired hurt after a blow to the eye for without scoring.

This brought skipper Bennett to the wicket and he played very well to make an undefeated 90, with support from opener Birkett (29) and Nick Hajdasz (39) as Church Aston closed 44 runs adrift on 202-5.

Knockin's best bowler was Jamie Jagger with 2-52 to add to his earlier runs and there was also a wicket for Julian Gallimore who bowled well at the top of the innings.

Knockin skittled in heavy loss

Knockin &Kinnerley IIIs 104 all out (2pts) lost to Whittington IIs 105 for 3 (20pts) by seven wickets

WHITTINGTON IIs got the better of their visitors on a day when Knockin & Kinnerley IIIs were outplayed in most departments.

Batting first Knockin were fired out for just 104 with only Mac Davies troubling the scorers as he made 40.

In reply Whittington made short work of the chase getting home in the 23rd over for the loss of just three wickets.

R Williams playing well to steer his side home with an undefeated 49 and Mike Lewis chipping in with 24 to seal a comfortable victory for Whittington.

The result leaves Kinnerley in mid-table while Whittington jump into the top five following a losing draw in week one.

Dominant Welshpool secure emphatic derby-day victory

Welshpool 182 for 7, beat Llanidloes 74 all out by 108 runs

WELSHPOOL ROARED to an emphatic 108-run victory over Powys rivals Llanidloes to boost their early fortunes in the FBC Manby Bowdler Shropshire League division one.

The Maesydre men dominated with both bat and ball, and their display was the perfect riposte following their nine wicket defeat against Alberbury on the opening day of the season.

Joe Birch top scored with 70 for Pool, Rob Birch chipping in with 33.

It was a much improved batting performance by the Welshpool XI.

Joe Birch came close to carrying his bat, giving his wicket away in the last over chasing runs as Welshpool reached a score of 182–7 in their 40 overs.

Most of the Llanidloes bowlers were unable to establish any dominance in the game with the exception of veteran skipper Rob Jones who displayed his vast experience stemming the flow of runs in his eight overs and finishing with figures of 3–20.

Conversely, Llanidloes' batters found it difficult to score runs against accurate Welshpool bowling and following the dismissal of openers Andrew Evans and Mark Hughes before 17 runs had been scored the result of the match was in little doubt.

Regularly

Wickets fell regularly during the Llanidloes innings with many of the batsmen failing to reach double figures.

The only players to buck this trend were Simon Jones, 19, and Ryan Jones, 29.

Most of the Welshpool bowlers took wickets with Sam Birch producing the best figures of 3–21 in his 11 overs closely followed by youngster Rob Anderson who took 2-12 of six overs.

The game finished in a moment of glory for the Birch family when Sam Birch took the final catch to dismiss the Llanidloes number 11 for a duck.

And the wicket came off the bowling of skipper and family head Ernie Birch – one of two for the captain who finished with 2-8 off four overs.

The final wicket fell inside 38 overs as Llani were skittled out for 74.

Rupert Shingler, who earlier made 19, took the other wicket to fall.

Boosted by the win, Pool now head to Forton on Saturday as they look for more of the same against a side in a similar mid table position to themselves.

Seconds drop nine catches in draw

Welshpool IIs 122 for 9, drew with Quayside, 150 all out

WELSHPOOL IIS SALVAGED a draw in their trip to Quayside as they were unable to reach the same heady heights of last week's opening day victory.

Winning the toss, Welshpool put Quayside in to bat and restricted them to 150 all out in 38 overs.

Teenager Tom Anderson was the chief wicket-taker with 5-26 off seven overs as Welshpool put themselves in with a chance of victory.

In reply Welshpool made a good start, putting on 29 for the first wicket but then lost wickets regularly and were left hanging on for a losing draw at 122 for 9.

The story of the day, though, was one of lost chances.

Welshpool spilled an unbelievable nine catches with Quayside, in turn dropping a further two.

And that left skipper Dan Chodecki (31) in no doubt where the game was lost.

He said: "The dropped catches made all the difference.

"Had we held onto ours victory would have been in our grasp."

Bowlers hurt by dropped catches

Unlucky – Cae Glas bowler Keith Yapp saw three dropped catches off his bowling during the game

Spin king – Dave Morris gets lift off on his way to claiming three wickets for Cae Glas in their losing draw

Last wicket stand salvages draw

Cae Glas (3pts) 60 for 9, drew with Bishop's Castle (17pts) 134 for 7

EXCELLENT SWING bowling by left-arm seamer Simon Palmer prevented Cae Glas from chasing down a relatively modest total of 134-7 in their division two clash with Bishop's Castle on Saturday.

With the rain constantly looming, the clubs agreed the minimum 70-over contest and took tea after the game, but rain never intervened despite the occasional thunder-clap.

The visitors put Castle in and promptly dropped a succession of catches, three off the unlucky Keith Yapp, which allowed home openers Edgar Whateley (47) and Andy Lewis (32) to get into their stride, open up, and set what proved ultimately to be an unassailable target of 134-7. Dave Morris plugged away to claim 3-25 off 14 overs, bowled in two spells.

And he was given good support at the other end from Tom Gardner (2-25) and Gaz Edgerton (2-21), and all three took difficult skied chances as the errors in the field dried up.

Blasted

In reply Rob Babbage blasted a mighty six but both openers were back in the hutch with 18 on the board.

Wickets tumbled regularly after that as the visitors failed to come to terms with Palmer's bowling as he claimed 4-24 off 12 overs.

And with Tom Moulder and Steve Morris backing him up with two victims apiece, the Glas – despite some good resistance from Dave Morris and Mark Jones – found themselves staring down the barrel at 69-9 and six overs left to survive.

By this stage Yapp was proving by some distance that he was the Glas's best batter of the day, and he and skipper Nick Broadbent had few alarms at closing out the game to finish 80-9 with Yapp unbeaten on 21.

However the Glas claimed only three points from the match, all through their bowling, and were left rueing those drops and their inability to combat a very useful home attack.

After their close winning draw in the previous week's opener hosting Tibberton, the Glas are home again this week to old foes Acton Reynald.

Encouraging signs for youngsters

Welshpool IIIs 188 for 5 drew with Bomere Heath 145 for 8

WELSHPOOL'S YOUNGSTERS continue to impress after picking up an encouraging draw with Bomere Heath.

After being put in to bat they reached a pleasing total of 188 for 5 off their 35 overs with Damon Preston making 56 not out.

He was helped by Sean Roberts' knock of 44 while Kieran Evans 27 not out and skipper Dave Whitehous (27) also made valuable contributions..

In reply Bomere never threatened the Welshpool total.

Experienced bowler, Alan Williams, took 3-14 in his nine overs but Bomere always looked like saving the game.

Number seven John Hughes (59) was the main source of frustration for Pool and when he was caught by Welshpool's impressive wicketkeeper Patrick Wilding the tide threatened to turn.

But Bomere recovered and the game eventually petered out into a draw.

Holgate ends on 49 but Glas earn victory

Cae Glas IIs (20pts) 114 for 4 beat Bishop's Castle (3pts) 113 all out

CAE GLAS IIs made it two wins in a row when they entertained Bishop's Castle II, with a victory by six wickets.

The visitors were asked to bat on a damp Gatacre pitch and found the going tough against accurate home bowling. Only Richard Whateley (34) and Andy Murray (25) got into double figures as Bishop's Castle reached 113 all out .

Nick Chesters was the pick of the home bowlers with career best figures of 5–26.

Andy Hughes chipped in with 2 for 8 and the evergreen Murrel Morris who took 2–43.

In reply, after an early setback, The Glas reached their target for the loss of four wickets, the consistent Tim Smith scoring 30 and the unfortunate Ian Holgate falling one short of a big-hitting half century.

Barton eyes Morda job

Goalkeeper Mike Barton admits he would be interested in taking Morda United's vacant managerial job as he sees bright times ahead for the County League premier division club.

With Norman Evans having stepped down as boss at the end of the season, Barton was among the candidates being interviewed for the post this week.

"If offered the job, I would certainly take it as the club has exciting plans for the future," he said.

"I've played six or seven games in goal for Morda and thoroughly enjoyed it and the league was a lot better than I thought it would be."

Barton, now 37, does not see himself continuing in goal on a regular basis.

PLACINGS

West Midland League

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Malvern Rangers	23	17	3	3	55	54
St Martins	**23**	**17**	**2**	**4**	**35**	**53**
Leominster Town	24	15	4	5	39	49
AFC Smethwick	23	12	8	3	31	44
Penkridge Town	24	14	2	8	30	44
Wrens Nest	23	11	5	7	2	38
Tenbury United	22	11	3	8	9	36
Mahal	24	10	5	9	-7	35
Team Dudley	23	10	1	12	-8	31
Riverway	24	5	3	16	-37	18
Bilston Town Res	23	5	1	17	-35	16
Ettingshall Pk Farm	24	4	1	19	-23	13
W'ton Sprt Com R	24	2	0	22	-91	6

Sportsjamkits.com County League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Haughmond	21	16	2	3	41	50
Ellesmere Res	**20**	**14**	**4**	**2**	**37**	**46**
Newport Town	22	12	5	5	25	41
Ludlow Town	20	12	2	6	51	38
FC Hodnet	21	11	5	5	22	38
Shifnal Utd '97	22	10	4	8	-4	34
Ketley Bank Utd	22	7	8	7	-17	29
Broseley Juniors	21	6	5	10	-12	23
Impact Utd	21	4	5	12	-20	17
Telford Juniors	22	4	4	14	-29	16
Morda United	**22**	**5**	**1**	**16**	**-36**	**16**
Dawley Villa	20	1	5	14	-58	8

Shropshire Alliance

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Rock Rovers	14	11	2	44	23	34
Oswestry Boys Club	14	9	4	42	27	28
Weston Rhyn	14	8	4	37	27	26
Oswestry T Lions	14	5	7	32	28	17
Prees Utd	14	4	6	25	28	16
Ludlow Town Colts	14	5	9	26	41	15
Hopesgate Utd	14	2	6	24	33	12
Bayston Hill	14	3	9	24	47	11

CONSOLATION CUP – GROUP A

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bayston Hill	5	3	2	13	14	9
Oswestry T Lion	**4**	**2**	**2**	**11**	**6**	**6**
Hopesgate Utd	4	2	2	11	10	6
Ludlow Town Colts	5	2	3	13	18	6

GROUP B

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Rock Rovers	3	3	0	13	3	9
Prees Utd	4	2	2	5	9	6
Weston Rhyn	**3**	**0**	**3**	**6**	**12**	**0**

Spar Mid Wales League

Division one: Dolgellau 4, Dyffryn Banw 2; Llanidloes 1, Carno 0; Llanrhaeadr 3, Tywyn Bryncrug 0; Penparcau 1, Llansantffraid Village 3; Waterloo 3, Builth Wells 0.

Division two: Aberaeron 0, Llanfair Utd 1; Bont 0, Llandrindod Wells 0; Meifod 4, Kerry 2; Rhosgoch 5, Llanfyllin 3; Tregaron 2, Montgomery 3.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Berriew	28	21	2	97	29	68
Llanrhaeadr	26	22	3	69	21	67
Llanidloes	28	18	7	62	31	57
Carno	28	18	7	66	37	57
Llansantffraid	27	15	10	64	46	47
Tywyn-Bryncrug	28	13	12	58	48	42
Bow Street	28	11	13	66	65	37
Newbridge	28	10	15	51	88	33
Dolgellau	28	10	16	57	66	32
Waterloo	28	8	12	52	61	32
Aberystwyth Uni	26	9	13	39	47	31
Builth Wells	27	8	15	40	58	28
Penparcau	28	7	15	59	87	27
Dyffryn Banw	28	5	18	39	70	20
Presteigne	28	4	21	39	104	15

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Montgomery	23	18	1	97	19	58
Tregaron	24	14	6	48	42	46
Rhosgoch	22	14	6	64	27	44
Bont	23	10	8	43	43	35
Kerry	24	10	9	43	51	35
Four Crosses	24	9	8	41	50	34
Llanfair Utd	23	10	10	45	39	33
Llandrindod Wells	24	8	8	48	44	32
Aberaeron	24	7	10	30	35	28
Abermule	24	7	12	38	49	26
Talgarth	24	6	11	36	55	25
Llanfyllin	23	7	13	50	70	24
Meifod	24	2	20	23	82	5

JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League

Mid Wales Trophies Consolation Cup, round one: Churchstoke 4 (Huw Roberts 2, Chris Woodward, Ricky Davies), Guilsfield Res 5 (Phil Turnbull 3, Dan Griffiths, Jon Pritchard).

Round two: Morda Res 9 (Keith Meredith 2, Jamie Mitchell 2, Adie Jones 2, Josh Thomas, Steve Jones, Joe Pierpoint), Llanfair Res 0.

Llansantffraid Village Cup, semi-final: Llangedwyn 2 (James Wigley 2), Llanrhaeadr Res 1.

Honda division one: Llanidloes Res 3 (Nick Jones, Jordan Jones, Iestyn Penri), Bettws 4 (Mark Thomas, Alun Williams, Richard Williams, Ben Lloyd).

Mitsubishi dvision two: Llansantffraid Res 1 (Alwyn Williams), Llanfechain 4 (Bryn Thomas 2, Lloyd Meredith, Mike Jones).

HONDA DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Llanidloes Res	16	11	2	40	19	36
Caersws Res	16	8	2	44	16	29
Guilsfield Res	16	9	5	36	23	29
Carno Res	16	8	6	38	36	26
Llangedwyn	16	7	4	32	27	26
Waterloo Res	16	5	7	23	31	19
Berriew Res	16	4	11	24	41	13
Churchstoke	16	3	10	22	46	12
Bettws	16	2	10	19	39	10

MITSUBISHI DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Welshpool Res	18	12	4	64	28	38
Llanfechain	18	12	4	55	28	38
Llansantffraid Res	18	10	3	47	34	35
Morda Res	18	8	5	45	17	29
Waterloo Colts	18	8	6	28	33	28
Llanrhaeadr Res	16	8	6	39	23	26
Kerry Res	18	5	11	28	37	17
Trefonnen	18	3	10	32	56	14
Llanfair Res	17	2	8	15	47	13
Dyffryn Banw Res	17	1	12	24	74	7

Dragons' dream over

WREXHAM'S PROMOTION bid ended on Tuesday night as Luton secured a 2-1 second leg victory in their Blue Square Bet Premier play-off tie.

That followed a 3-0 defeat for the Dragons in their home leg meaning they crash out 5-1 on aggregate.

Wrexham had left themselves a mountain to climb after conceding three first half goals at the Racecourse last week.

Alex Lawless struck first with a superb 35-yard low shot before Claude Gnakpa smashed a second into the top corner and Ed Asafu-Adjaye made it three.

Wrexham came out fighting in the second leg and Andy Mangan gave them hope with an eighth minute opener.

But after Gareth Taylor missed a penalty to double the lead, Zdenek Kroca headed home an equaliser to take the tie away from Wrexham.

The visitors then needed keeper Chris Maxwell, caught out by the leveller, to keep his side in the game with a series of fine saves to stop a galvanised home side.

But Jason Walker sealed Luton's place in the final at Eastlands on May 21 against either AFC Wimbledon or Fleetwood with a second goal nine minutes from time.

Shrewsbury frontman Matt Harrold challenges Oxford's Anthony Tonkin during Town's 3-0 victory

Town's play-off test

SHREWSBURY TOWN travel to Torquay United on Saturday night for the first leg of their League Two play-off semi-final sweating on the fitness of key defender David Raven.

The full-back is struggling with a thigh strain ahead of the clash and faces a race against time ahead of the fixture.

"David has been making some progress and is put at 50-50 for the weekend," said Town boss Graham Turner.

"He had a dead leg in the previous game at Cheltenham and just aggrevated it a little bit in training."

Meanwhile Town will have to beware forward Jake Robinson, on loan at Torquay from Shrewsbury and a likely starter on Saturday night.

Robinson is eligible to play in both legs and scored twice during the Gulls 5-0 win over Town at Plainmoor earlier in the season.

But Town will be able to call upon their three loan rangers – Mat Sadler, David Davis and Niall Canavan – as well as the returning Steve Leslie, back from a loan spell at Hereford.

Saturday's match is a 5.45pm kick off with the second leg at the Greenhous Meadow on Friday week.

Reserves plunder nine in cup semi

Spot on – even Morda reserves keeper Josh Thomas found the net

MORDA RESERVES could end their first season in the Welsh system with some silverware after securing a place in the final of the Consolation Cup final.

The reserves struck nine goals without reply against Llanfair Reserves in their last four clash.

Goalkeeper Josh Thomas even made the score sheet along with Steve Jones and Joe Pierpoint while Keith Meredith, Jamie Mitchell and Adrian Jones all claimed a brace.

Morda went ahead in the second minute when Meredith found the net from a long Josh Thomas clearance.

The bulk of the play remained in the visitors' half though Geraint Williams twice went close after rare breaks by Llanfair.

The half finished with three further goals in the last five minutes.

Turning

Meredith hit his second, receiving the ball with his back to goal, turning and firing into the roof of the net.

Adrian Jones finished off a good move from the left for the third before quickly adding the fourth after good work by Jamie Meredith.

Within a minute of the restart Joe Pierpoint hit Morda's fifth from a narrow angle on the left.

Defender Steve Jones then joined the scoring from an Adrian Jones cross before Pierpoint created the seventh for Jamie Mitchell.

A penalty on the hour saw home Morda keeper Josh Thomas seize the ball and hammer home an unstoppable shot to claim his first goal for the club.

Keith Meredith and Jamie Mitchell continued to torment the visiting defence and combined for Mitchell to complete the scoring hitting Morda's ninth.

Morda Reserves await details of when and where the final will be played. Their opponents will be the winners of the Kerry Reserves v Dyffryn Banw Reserves semi-final.

Morda have completed their league programme and look set to finish fourth in their debut season.

Guilsfield show true colours in fantastic cup final victory

GUILSFIELD BOSS Russell Cadwallader ended his first season in charge with some silverware – and dedicated his side's Cymru Alliance triumph to all those involved with the club.

Having toiled in the league, the Guils have saved some of their better performances for cup competitions this term as they sealed a 3-0 win over Porthmadog in the final at Cefn Druids.

"The club has won the Central Wales Cup before, but this is the most important trophy in its history and I'm pleased for all the people who work so hard for the club," said Cadwallader.

"It's a nice way to finish the season, and the way we played showed just what we're capable of which is frustrating after being so inconsistent in the league.

"We now need to build on this. The nucleus of the squad is here, but I'll be looking to add four or five more signings before next season."

Reflecting on the final, Cadwallader said: "The game was a lot tighter than the score suggested.

"We managed to get ahead 1-0 but they had a good 25-minute spell in the second half and had they scored then, the result may have been different. But once we got a second it was done and dusted."

The Druids' Rock venue has proved a happy hunting ground this season for the Guils who also accounted for Caersws in the semi-final.

Captain and man of the match James Henderson put them on course when making the breakthrough a minute before half time, before Gareth Jones and Chris Roberts settled the issue after the interval.

Stronger

Porthmadog, despite having three players cup-tied, started the stronger in each half but Guilsfield showed themselves to be the better footballing side once they got to grips with the game.

They made the breakthrough a minute before half time when central defender Henderson planted his header into the net from a Rob Cookson corner.

Although Port pressed with purpose early in the second half, they failed to find a way through and their hopes faded after they were caught on the break.

Ross Frame and Cookson combined before finding Jones who steered in a shot from the tightest of angles to give his side a two-goal cushion, a lead they never looked likely to relinquish.

Assistant boss Roberts put the seal on a fine triumph when his shot bounced up over the keeper eight minutes from time.

Oswestry Boys Club Elliot Howes has a shot on goal in a crowded penalty area during his side's 3-2 victory over Hopesgate United in the Shropshire Alliance

FOOTBALL

by John Bridgwater

That's in – James Henderson heads Guislfield in front during their 3-0 victory. *Picture: DAVE HENDERSON*

Turner hat-trick seals second

OSWESTRY BOYS Club sealed second spot in the Shropshire Alliance with a 3-2 victory over Hopesgate United on Saturday.

The home side needed just a point to secure the runners up spot and the Boys Club started the game the stronger with George Turner scoring the opener.

Scott Bright was the cause of most of the threat on the Hopesgate goal, and he set up a second for Turner when he beat the on rushing defender twice before sending over a perfect low cross.

The second half then saw Hopesgate start the brighter, but it was Boys Club who scored when Laurie Bridle took it past two players and found Turner to complete his hat trick.

Two late goals from Hopesgate brought them back into the game but it wasn't enough to deny Boys Club the win.

Elsewhere, Weston Rhyn were beaten 7-3 by Rock Rovers as they exited the Consolation Cup.

Luke Dovaston put Rhyn in front twice at 1-0 and 2-1 but they couldn't sustain their form despite another goal from Steve Pugh who made it 4-3 at the interval before Rock notched three without reply after the break.

Howzat? OCC net double

OSWESTRY CRICKET Club have done the double in the North Shropshire Sunday League.

They beat The Oak 1-0 in the League Cup final at Wem on Sunday, Nathan Leonard setting up George Turner to fire in the vital goal in the 44th minute.

Oak were reduced to 10 men in the 84th minute when James Neil was sent off for a second yellow card, leaving OCC skipper Carl Thomas to receive the trophy from league chairman Dave Ralphs.

Part one of the double came with another victory over the Oak, this time 3-2 on penalties in the Charter Standard Cup final. Oak needed to score their last kick to take it to sudden death but skipper James Lewis had his saved by Josh Thomas.

Cross Foxes were crowned as champions at the league presentation.

Other award winners

Leading goalscorer: Joe Roberts (Dudleston Heath) 30; Most Sporting Club Award: Dudleston Heath; Best Club Assistant: Ken Jones (Dudleston Heath).

Referee of the Season: Roger Firmstone (Oswestry); Best Club Secretary: Dave Hughes (The Ironworks).

Rangers stay in hunt

And then there were two.

The Shropshire County Premier League is now a two horse race between Haughmond and Ellesmere Rangers Reserves after both sides enjoyed weekend victories.

Ellesmere showed they mean business by beating third placed Newport Town 2-1 thanks to goals from Tim Allen and Kevin Renshaw.

Rangers trail Haughmond by four points with two games to go and have the chance to cut that gap to one with victory at home to basement boys Dawley Villa on Saturday.

That would set up a final game winner takes all clash with the leaders in the final game of the season.

Llanrhaeadr two points from title

WITH JUST two games remaining, Llanrhaeadr are closing in on the Spar Mid Wales League division one championship.

Their 3-0 victory over Tywyn Bryncrug means Mario Iaquinta's side are now just one point behind leaders Berriew and need just two points from their remaining two games – both against Aberystwyth University – to lift the crown.

Their first game was last night at home, before Llanrhaeadr make the return to Aber on Saturday seeking that title-clinching victory.

Ben White netted twice against Tywyn and Alun Jones also found the net for the villagers.

Should Llanrhaeadr win the league, will be hoping to overturn a decision to refuse them promotion to the Cymru Alliance.

A few days earlier, Llanrhaeadr enjoyed a 4-1 win at lowly **Dyffryn Banw**, with White again netting twice along with Jamie Evans and Simon Edwards.

Banw, who levelled through Rhodri Davies, are now certain to finish in the bottom two but will escape relegation as Tregaron will not be promoted from division two.

Disappointing

Banw's disappointing season ended with a 4-2 loss at Dolgellau at the weekend.

Dolgellau led throughout with Iwan Lewis netting twice along with Lee Richards and Ian Morris Jones.

Rhodri Davies pulled one back after the break before substitute Gareth Smith headed a late consolation for Banw.

Llansantffraid Village secured a top five finish after winning 3-1 in a windswept affair at Penparcau.

All their goals came in the first half with the elements in their favour through Harry Dunne, Wayne Austin and Nathan Prodger.

Matthew Knight's brace helped **Waterloo Rovers** to a 3-0 win over Builth Wells, Mike Henderson also findng the net.

Berriew meet Tywyn Bryncrug in the semi-final of the Spar Mid Wales League Cup at Llanidloes tomorrow night while **Montgomery** are due to take on Bow Street at Carno on Saturday (1pm).

Villagers close to surprise

LLANSANTFFRAID VILLAGE put up a plucky display before going down 4-3 to Caersws in the final of the Central Wales Cup at Newtown's Latham Park.

The fancied Bluebirds were given plenty of scares before Mark Griffiths headed the winner after their Spar Mid Wales League opponents were left to rue a penalty miss from Wayne Austin when the scores were level at 3-3.

Neil Mitchell, with a fine strike, and an own goal had Caersws 2-0 up but Llansantffraid were finding holes in the Cymru Alliance side's defence and carved a string of chances as they hit back through Alwyn Williams, Chris Aitken and Austin.

However, the Bluebirds levelled through Graham Evans' penalty before Griffiths settled the issue.

Meanwhile, there was a champion feel as Montgomery celebrated the presentation of their Spar Mid Wales League division two trophy with a 5-0 home hammering of Llandrindod Wells.

They marked the night in style with Mike Cockram firing a hat-trick and Gaz Bromley a brace as they look forward to life in division one next season.

Four days later and with the title wrapped up, Clive McNamee's men showed no signs of easing up as Bromley again hit the goal trail with a hat-trick in the 3-2 win over one time challengers Tregaron.

Basement side Meifod had some joy as they saw off Kerry 4-2 and Llanfair United won 1-0 at Aberaeron as the season draws to a close.

New boy Lewis in strong showing

ROUND ONE of Oswestry Paragon Cycling Club's evening time trial series kicked off on Friday night, and despite the threat of rain, 26 riders took to the line.

Victory went to 18-year-old Luke Grivell-Mellor of Mid Shropshire Wheelers, who took advantage of the favourable conditions to race round the 9.8 mile course in 21 minutes two seconds at an average speed of nearly 28mph.

Oswestry new boy Alan Lewis took second place and maximum points in the Stuart Barkley points series with a personal best with a time of 22.54.

Fellow Oswestry clubman Andrew Davies took third place in 23.49 laying down his challenge for the silverware this year.

Fourth place was closely contested with Dave Lewis of Mid Shropshire Wheelers crossing the line in 24.06, just three seconds ahead of Oswestry's Neil Coles.

Rivalries

Setting the scene for a tightly fought season the remaining riders making up the top 10 were separated by less than half a minute creating plenty of rivalries for the next 17 weeks.

Medwyn Jones of Brooks Cycles took sixth place in a time of 24.30 putting him ahead of Oswestry's Andrew Barton (24.41) and Andrew Birch of TriSmart (24.47).

Tying for the final top ten places was the Paragon pairing of Steve Roberts and Colin Lythe who both clocked 24.54.

There were also several good rides further down-from Robert Rees (26.40) and Steve Davies (26.21).

Liz Salisbury was the only lady to take part giving her a head start in the points series. Her time of 28.32 was good enough for 18th overall.

Two junior riders took part with Alex Durnell of Mid Shropshire Wheelers coming home in 31.55 beating Adam Griffiths (32.14).

Staples masters conditions

A DAY of remarkable wind conditions saw three winners from five races at Shropshire Sailing Club.

A strong southerly wind pushed through several storm fronts with torrential rain and winds above 30mph on Sunday afternoon.

Yet between times the wind fell to such an extent that racers at Whitemere were almost becalmed.

Francis Staples was master of the conditions taking the morning and first two short-course races in his Laser.

Tom Dutton launched in a Laser with a radial rig, and after battling with the gusts early on settled to improve throughout the afternoon's four races to end with a win.

His younger sister Grace, in a new partnership with Francis Baldwin in a Feva, sailed consistently, and recorded four third places.

The other race was taken by John Clifford.

RESULTS: 11.15am Long Distance A Race 10 (handicap): 1 Francis Staples, 2 Angus Bartaby, 3 Colin Smith & Sue Walters.

1.15pm Early Summer Series Race 5 (pursuit): 1 Francis Staples, 2 Colin Smith & Sue Walters, 3 Francis Baldwin & Grace Dutton. Top junior, Francis Baldwin & Grace Dutton.

2pm Early Summer Series Race 6 (handicap), 1. Francis Staples, 2 Colin Smith & Sue Walters; 3 Francis Baldwin & Grace Dutton. Top junior, Francis Baldwin & Grace Dutton.

3.15pm, Early Summer Series Race 7 (pursuit), 1 John Clifford, 2 Tom Dutton, 3 Francis Baldwin & Grace Dutton. Top junior, Tom Dutton

4pm Early Summer Series Race 8 (handicap), 1 Tom Dutton, 2 John Clifford, 3 Francis Baldwin & Grace Dutton. Top junior, Tom Dutton.

Double delight – The Cock A, winners of the Welshpool Ladies Darts League championship and the Barbara Myatt Trophy

Celebration time – The Horseshoe, Arddleen, show off the trophy for winning the Welshpool Ladies Darts League second division.

Champions Cock earn trophy double

THE COCK Hotel of Forden are the winners of Welshpool Ladies Darts League's first division title.

They received the trophy at a presentation evening and doubled up by winning the Barbara Myatt Knockout Trophy as well.

They pipped Talbot A to the title, who had the consolation of winning the Vaults Cup.

Horsheshoe, Arddleen won the second division, with Westwood Park finishing second. The Beidden of Middletown won the Consolation Cup and Grapes B picked up the Verdun Herbert Trophy.

Louise George was the individual champion, beating Romaine Bayliss in the final and the pair joined up to win the doubles tournament.

Heather Gittins, Sue Lee and Chris Evans of Talbot B won the trebles.

Oswestry deny any text offer of draw

OSWESTRY A chess captain Ashley Peile has angrily denied a claim by Shifnal & Telford B counterpart Stefan Tennant that he sent a draw offer by text days in advance of their end-of-season match and then, when it was refused by Tennant, followed it up with a no-show.

Shifnal & Telford players had the boards laid out and the clocks were ticking as they waited in vain for Oswestry to show up.

But Peile says that he warned Tennant that he could only field two players, and he has flatly denied that he ever offered a draw by text – and has challenged Tennant to produce any such text.

Peile said: "The Thursday before the Wednesday of the scheduled match, I left a message with a woman, I presume his partner, as he was out playing chess.

Explained

"I explained we only had two players available that night and that they could either claim a default or, as our team were still interested in playing, to reschedule.

"The next day I got a text message, saying that he had his team for Wednesday and that they played and lost at our club with a reduced side.

"I text him back telling him we only had two players and if he didn't want to reschedule to take the default.

"He just replied, 'I will keep to Wednesday next week.'

"I informed the Oswestry team that we were defaulting and that Stefan was being awkward, by saying he was keeping to Wednesday even though I had told him to take a default."

Peile said club colleague Graham Ives text Tennant to tell him Oswestry could not field a team.

"Unfortunately, I have since deleted all my sent messages to create space on my phone," said Peile.

And the Oswestry skipper added: "I would like to make very clear that I did not even mention a draw, let alone offer one, and I am quite offended by the comments."

Eagles already looking to next year after season of suffering

Try time – Rich Owen

OSWESTRY RUGBY Club start the re-building job ahead of the new season this week, even though the 2011 campaign only finished on Saturday.

The Eagles suffered another defeat – 72-12 away at Ormskirk – but the result was almost immaterial for a club plagued by injury problems during a disastrous year.

And the club's director of rugby Chris Jones admitted everyone was just happy to get to the end of the season, and the chance to look ahead to next year.

"We just need to draw a line under this campaign," he said.

"It's a chance for us to get some of our injured players back and hopefully get a bit more consistency and a bit more confidence at a level we can cope with.

"We've had a bad season and that has mainly been down to injuries and then we have lost our confidence a little bit and just got into a losing habit which has been difficult to get out of.

"Hopefully now that will change and we can look forward to next year."

And Jones added that the club needed to take the step down to South Lancashire/Cheshire two – level eight of the rugby pyramid.

He said: "It's a straightforward relegation for us – however many teams go down from our league we will be one of them.

"I think we need to go down and just try to consolidate."

Jones was confident that the bulk of the squad would remain and be boosted by the return of several injured starts.

Realistic

"We're not expecting to lose too many players and I think all the players are realistic and will want to stay."

The club is expected to begin pre-season training at the end of July before the first league fixture in September with skipper Andy Howell expected to return in time for the new campaign.

Saturday's loss was Oswestry's 16th straight defeat in a year where they have collected just two wins in total.

Rob Massam and Rich Owen were the two try scorers while Gareth Morris converted one of the scores.

Oswestry, who had made 11 changes to the team, couldn't find a way through in a one-sided first half and found themselves 39-0 down at the interval.

The new look squad, a blend of youth and experience, found some repsonse in a more even second period but couldn't make too much of an impression on the scoreboard as the home side continued to control proceedings.

RUGBY
by Alex James

Cobra secure another win

COBRA were made to battle all the way before seeing off a resilient Rhyl 30-24 after their hosts had threatened a late comeback.

The victory should guarantee the Llanfair Caereinion men a fourth place finish in the Swalec Welsh League division two (north).

And they will be looking to round off their campaign on a high note when they visited Abergele last night before hosting struggling Bangor.

With several players missing last weekend, COBRA gave a chance to several of their promising young guns and they did not disappoint.

Full back Sion Wyn Williams scored a brace of tries while there was a touchdown apiece for flanker Richard Rees and the club's No8 Aled Davies.

Scrum half Llew Williams weighed in with two conversions and a couple of penalties before a late try gave Rhyl some hope.

The result left coach James Watkin satisfied with his side's efforts, even if the performance wasn't quite what he was looking for.

"The scoreline was a bit closer than it should have been," said Watkin whose side had won 53-5 at home against the same side a few weeks back.

"We missed a couple of good try scoring opportunities to have increased the lead when we were 30-17 up.

"But it was a pleasing win, particularly as we had seven or eight players missing."

Meanwhile, COBRA's junior section is having a fun day on Sunday, May 15 at 10.30am in which there will be a 'lads v dads' tag rugby competition.

The club dinner will be held at Llanyblodwel Village Hall on Friday, June 3. Tickets cost £20.

by John Bridgwater

Young aces – Ellesmere College's squad which will represent England, from left, Catriona Jones, Olivia Jones, Emily Sutcliffe, Jo Bowen, Hannah Clarke and Harriet Jones

Pupils net England call

ELLESMERE COLLEGE aces are aiming to serve up success on a national stage when they represent England in a top international tournament later this month.

The girls' first team have been selected to represent England in the World Schools Tennis Championships in France.

The call follows on from the college's success in the British National Schools' Tennis Championships last year.

And although the date of the tournament interferes with exams a six-strong squad will be making the trip – and sitting public examinations while they're away.

The side is made up of year 12 pupil Jo Bowen, year 11 pupils Hannah Clarke and Emily Sutcliffe, year 10 pupils Olivia Jones and Harriet Jones and year 9 pupil Catriona Jones.

The team will play against sides from China, France and Turkey during the tournament.

And Ellesmere College Director Nikki Hoy has backed the squad to do their country proud in the competition.

She said: "The six girls are a formidable team who, besides enjoying playing together, are all competitive.

"Their combined desire to win is formidable and that shapes their every move on court.

"We wish them well as they compete against other international teams."

And the Ellesmere squad is used to success having secured the Aegon League Schools' National Championship this year in Bolton.

New initiative

That is a tournament Ellesmere have qualified for in each of the last three seasons.

While the Ellesmere College Academy team is participating in this international tournament, the school is also embarking on a new initiative to encourage children aged between four and 10 to join in the College Tennis Programme for a four week tennis course on Saturdays during term time.

Details of this and other tennis courses planned for the summer holidays can be found at www.ellesmere.com.

PLACINGS

South Lancs/Cheshire Rugby League

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Anselmians	26	25	1	1024	348	121
Widnes	26	21	5	938	342	104
Tyldesley	25	16	9	622	438	80
Winnington Park	26	14	12	678	594	72
Hoylake	26	14	12	504	516	66
Wigan	26	14	12	475	520	66
Liverpool Coll	26	12	13	496	565	60
Bowdon	25	11	14	534	687	58
Ashton-on-Mersey	26	12	14	469	617	56
Sale	26	13	13	619	610	52
Glossop	25	9	16	475	586	49
Ormskirk	26	9	17	443	717	47
Vagabonds (IOM)	25	7	17	400	580	39
Oswestry	**26**	**2**	**24**	**318**	**875**	**13**

Welshpool concede ton in loss

WELSHPOOL'S MISERABLE campaign continued as they crashed to their heaviest defeat of the season when going down 105-0 at home to newly crowned champions Bala in the Swalec Welsh League division two (north).

With the sides at the opposites end of the table, the massive gulf was soon evident as Bala rattled up a commanding lead in securing a victory that saw them lift the league crown.

They were 54-0 up at half time and there was no respite for Welshpool in the second half with the outplayed Maesydre men rarely venturing close to the visitors' line in a hefty defeat.

"Bala were really up for the game, they wanted to win to make sure of the title which they duly did," said Pool chairman Gary Williams.

"They brought with them a fair crowd to celebrate. We've had better days to say the least and the only positive was that we were able to raise a side.

"We now need to regroup in division three next season which is the level we're at."

It was a bad week for Pool who also slumped 62-0 at Newtown a few days earlier, meaning they have conceded 167 points without reply in their last two games.

Pool bring the curtain down on a season they will want to forget with two away games, at Denbigh last night before a trip to Abergele on Saturday, May 15.

Around the greens

LAKESIDE

20+ handicap shield, 1 Garry Jones 42pts, 2 Sandy Knight 39, 3 Sandra Davies 39*.

Summer league, nett league, 1 Clifford Pryce 21pts, 2 Phil Lewis 21*, 3 Pete Philpott 21*.

Gross League 1 Joe Davies 16pts, 2 Phil Lewis 14, 3 Kevin Lloyd 14*.

LLANYMYNECH

Senior Men's Stableford, 1 Ed Garbett 42pts, 2 Peter Clarke 42, 3 John Cartwright 41.

OSWESTRY

May Seniors Open: 1 B Littler & J Bate (Oswestry) 43pts, 2 M Elder & T Thompson (Oswestry) 42, 3 K Birmingham & P Robinson (Eaton) 41*, 4 B Pughe & R Hughes (Oswestry) 41*, 5 A Molyneux & P Mellor 41

May Medal, division one, 1 Oliver Jennings 77-10=67*, 2 Goronwy Griffiths 78-11 =67*, 3 Duane James 74-7=67*, 4 David Baulch 71-4=67*, 5 Tommy Thompson 77-10=67, 6 Phil Laker 76-8=68.

Division two: 1 Grant Tunnadine 81-13=68, 2 Ted Lewis 82-12=70*, 3 Thomas Griffiths 85-15=70*, 4 Bob Yapp 85-15=70, 5 Bob Webb 83-12=71*, 6 Peter Turner 83-12=71.

Division three: 1 Roger Downward 89-23=66, 2 Graham Godbold 86-19=67, 3 Glynn Buckley 89-20=69*, 4 Dennis Cooke 94-25=69, 5 John Cecil 89-19=70, 6 Keith Belli 93-22=71. Best Gross: David Baulch 71

WELSHPOOL

Foresters Charity Day Stableford competition, division one, 1 Mark Roberts 36pts, 2 Mark Bell 36*, 3 Dave Rowlands 35.

Division two, 1 Dave Jones 41pts, 2 Mark Williams 41* 3, Pete Brooks 39.

Claret Jug Fourball Betterball competition, 1 Simon Roberts and Gareth Ashley 67pts, 2 Justin Williams and M Williams 67*, 3 Richard Templeton and Steve Duke 68.

Ladies Challenge Bowl & Medal, 1 Margaret Bowen 67, 2 Ann Newell, 3 Jane Mitchell.

Welshpool Ladies continued their run in the Welsh Team Championship at Aberystwyth with a fine 5-0 win over Machynys.

Edna Humphreys competition, 1 Sue Schmilt 32pts.

** Countback*

Cheque out the donation

Counting the cash – Llanymynech Juniors FC youngsters Nick and Paul Negri present a cheque for £600 to Jamie Lee Williams (current Miss Galaxy Wales) to deliver to Hope House Children's Hospice. The money raised by club activities forms part of a £3,700 total since fundraising began in February last year

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Boys Club end on a high note
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Sports Desk 01691 668094 e-mail sport@oswestrychronicle.co.uk www.oswestrychronicle.com

NEW LOOK SAINTS IN DOUBLE SWOOP

by John Bridgwater

AS THEY prepare to return to pre-season training in less than two weeks, The New Saints have moved quickly to bolster their backline by signing two defenders.

Manager Mike Davies admits the backline has been a concern and has swooped for former Derby County trainee Jermaine Johnson, who joins from Stafford Rangers, and ex-Wrexham right back Simon Spender – who arrives from Barrow.

Both put pen to paper this week ahead of this summer's Europa League campaign which, after the full-timers return to training a week on Monday, could get underway as early as Thursday June, 30.

"I'm sure Jermaine and Simon will be excellent signings for the club, it's certainly an area we needed to strengthen," said Davies.

"With us back in training so soon, we needed to move quickly and there could be one or two more coming in.

"It's not ideal starting back so soon but we have to get on with it and make sure we prepare well."

TNS, as runners-up in the Welsh Premier, must play in the first qualifying round of the Europa League after Welsh Cup winners Llanelli booked their place in the second round.

Twenty-year-old Johnson joined Saints ahead of several clubs, including Scottish Premier League outfit Kilmarnock, while Spender turned down a new deal at Barrow and also rejected a switch to Saints' Welsh Premier rivals Airbus UK.

"TNS have been the best side in Wales over the past 10 years and, having discussed the club" plans for the future, I am sure that success will continue," said Spender, 25.

Johnson, who suffered relegation from Blue Square Bet North with Stafford last season, added: "I wanted to get back into full-time football as quickly as possible and TNS have given me that opportunity."

In – Simon Spender

Welcome along – TNS manager Mike Davies greets new signing Jermaine Johnson. *Pic: Andrew Lincoln*

Seven exit Park Hall

AFTER MISSING out on the Welsh Premier title, The New Saints have not renewed the contracts of three senior players while also releasing four junior professionals from their current squad.

Midfielder Jamie Wood has not been offered terms along with right back Danny Holmes and wingman Craig Williams, who spent the second half of this season on-loan with his former club Llanelli.

The four junior pros released are all products of the TNS Scholarship scheme – midfielder John McKenna, striker Craig Whitfield, wideman Ryan Marriott and defender Sean Jones – while a couple of other players are believed to be mulling over new deals.

We are the champions!

It was easy-threesy for Guilsfield at the weekend as they lifted the Cymru Alliance League Cup following a 3-0 victory over Porthmadog at Cefn Druids. Captain and man-of-the-match James Henderson opened the scoring before further goals from Gareth Jones and Chris Roberts sealed the win. For a full report see page 86.

Club sure century king Carrasco will kick on

OSWESTRY SKIPPER Mark Robinson believes young opener Joe Carrasco can go from strength to strength on the back of his maiden Birmingham League century.

The 15-year-old became one of the youngest players to make a ton in the league's history when hitting an unbeaten 104 in the division three clash at Wednesbury on the opening day of the season.

It was a super start for Carrasco, and also for South African Warrick Fynn who made 82 in helping the Morda Road men to 226-2.

Fynn then followed up by taking 5-11 with his left arm spin but Oswestry had to settle for 17 points from a winning draw as their hosts held out on 120-9.

Robinson was delighted by the first day efforts, particularly from Carrasco, a member of the Worcestershire Academy.

"We wanted to hit the ground running and the intensity of the performance from the whole team was fantastic," he said.

Great start – Joe Carrasco

"Joe has played two seasons in the first team and he is regarded as one of our regulars although still only 15.

"He's a very stylish player who works very hard on his game. He's never satisfied, and just wants to bat on and score more and more runs. He's held in high regard."

Oswestry now turn their thoughts to hosting another of the division's new sides, Worcestershire's Barnards Green, at Morda Road on Saturday (12noon), with their visitors having got off to a winning start last week.

All rounder Nick Williams returns to a side brimming with confidence after their display against Wednesbury.

With play reduced to 44 overs a side because of rain, Oswestry were put in to bat and lost Alex Huxley for nine with the score on 16.

Carrasco and Fynn then set about the home attack, adding 175 in just 102 minutes before Fynn was caught in the deep for 82.

Carrasco was then joined at the crease by 14-year-old Joe Clarke and the two youngsters took the final total to 226-2, with Carrasco ending unbeaten on 104 and Clarke on 17 not out.

After new paceman Jonathan Miles made an early breakthrough, Fynn then took centre stage with the ball.

The left-arm spinner sent back five Wednesbury batsmen for just 11 runs in 13 overs to take Oswestry to the brink but Wednesbury's last pair survived eight deliveries before time ran out for Oswestry.

Stalwart Sm-out of title decider

ST MARTINS stalwart Chris Smout will miss the biggest game of his season this weekend – and it's all because of the weather.

Smout, who has featured in every West Midlands League division two fixture for Saints this term will be absent from their title decider with Malvern Rangers on Saturday because he is on holiday in Florida.

And club secretary Derek Stokes revealed that Smout, brother of Saints manager John Smout, booked his holiday last year believing the season would have finished.

"If we hadn't had all the bad weather over the winter we would have finished by now so he's been a bit unlucky," said Stokes.

"We're also missing Andy Webb and Paul Hughes through suspension so we're a few bodies down but everyone wants to play."

Saints go into the game one point behind Rangers meaning they must win on their own turf to seal the title, and the only guaranteed promotion slot.

But even that might not be enough for them to be promoted – and it's their own turf that could be to blame.

"Our pitch is 10 yards too short to go up," Stokes added.

"We have been trying to extend it but we need planning permission to move a fence back and we haven't got that yet.

"It might be that we look to a ground-share for next season if we do go up."

And the Saints may have been saved by their namesakes TNS who have offered their Venue pitch for the 2011-12 campaign.

Stokes added: "They have asked us if we want to go there which would be ideal as the pitch is great and it has floodlights.

"The only problem is the artificial pitch might cause some problems so we might have to wait and see."

Saturday's game is a 3pm kick off.

Rooke secures big date at Belfry

WELSHPOOL golfer Lee Rooke has his sights set on a place in the Great Britain & Ireland team to play the USA in The PGA Cup.

The competition is the club professional's equivalent of the Ryder Cup and will take place in Cordevalle, one of North California's celebrated resort destinations in September.

Rooke, who was formerly assistant at Llanymynech and is now attached to Vale of Llangollen, has a mountain to climb before making the cut for the elite team.

But he took a step in the right direction at Hesketh last week by booking a place in the Glenmuir PGA Professional Championship final at the Belfry.

He shared fifth place with a round of two over par and it was enough for him and 13 other qualifiers to claim their places at the £78,000, Peugeot-supported, final which will be held at the famous Midlands venue on June 14-17 over the PGA National Course.

"This is a big chance for me," said Rooke.

"It is every club professional's aim to make the PGA side.

"It's our equivalent of the Ryder Cup and a very prestigious event.

"It's a four round event at The Belfry and I will need to be at my best to make the cut as the best club professionals in the country will be there. I will need to finish in the top seven, which is a big challenge."

He is the son of Llanymynech golfer Mike Rooke who is a regular in both the Wales and Shropshire & Herefordshire senior representative sides.

In with a shout – Welshpool's Lee Rooke

Ref in record book?

OSWESTRY REFEREE John Davies may have clocked up a record after officiating at eight games in just seven days.

Davies, who earlier this year officiated at two games under different national organisations in the same day, took charge of seven games while running the line at a further one.

His remarkable record began a week last Sunday when he had the whistle for the Cross Foxes against Oswestry Cricket Club in the North Shropshire Sunday League.

He gave himself Monday off before returning to the middle for Tuesday night's Montgomeryshire League match between Llangedwyn and Carno Reserves, and then running the line in the Charter Standard Cup Final between Oswestry Cricket Club and the Oak on Wednesday.

The following night he was in charge of a women's match between Llanfyllin and Wrexham before an Oswestry Veterans game between the Bell and Ellesmere Rangers on Friday.

On Saturday he was in charge at Morda Reserves v Llanfair before finishing with two games on Sunday – Black Lion versus a Birmingham League side in a friendly and The Oak v Oswestry Cricket Club.

Pool vow no repeat

BOSS CHRIS Herbert insists the points farce that blighted Technogroup Welshpool's campaign will not happen next season in the Spar Mid Wales League.

The Lilywhites finished at the foot of Cymru Alliance with no points after being docked a total of 21 points – three of which came this week, along with a £100 fine, for playing assistant boss John Keegan in the last game while suspended.

It was the latest in series of penalties incurred by the Maesydre men, who suffered a 15-point deduction for fielding ineligible players last Autumn, and another three points for failing to fulfill a fixture at Penrhyncoch.

"We genuinely thought we could play John Keegan," said Herbert, "but we'll now move on and the club will be a lot better run next season," he said.

"We'll have the backroom sorted out, we've got a new chairman coming in and I believe the club will be going places."

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 77.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2010.

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